FBIS DAILY REPORT

Latin America

CONTENTS

Vol VI No 059 27 March 1987

ARGENTINA

Labor Leader Alderete Accepts Ministerial Post [AFP] B 1
Caputo To Implement Malvinas Strategy Issue B 1
Defense Minister Orders Arrest of Retired General B 1

BOLIVIA

FRG's Von Weizsaecker Departs; Visit Assessed C 1
Defense Minister on Sea Outlet, Joint Exercises C 1
Foreign Minister on Integration With Argentina [AFP] C 2

BRAZIL

Planning Minister Teixeira Installed 25 March D 1
Payment of Short-Term Credit Extended 60 Days D 1
[O GLOBO 26 Mar]
PCB Leader Returns From Moscow After Operation [O GLOBO 21 Mar] D 2
Cape Verde Defense Minister Signs Memorandum [AFP] D 2

CHILE

First New Newspaper Since 1973 Coup Appears [EFE] E 1
PCCh Members Hold Clandestine News Conference E 2
[ANALISIS 10-16 Mar]
'Only 18.9 Percent' of Authorized Exiles Return E 3
Briefs: Relations With Maldives Established; E 3
New Joint Chief of Staff

COLOMBIA

Soviet Delegation Arrives for 5-Day Official Visit F 1
Military, Liberals Draft Antiviolence Plan F 1
ELN Rebels Burn Vehicles, Damage Pipeline in Arauca F 1
[Buenos Aires REUTER]
UP Reports on New 'Death Squad' in Northeast [EFE] F 2
Councilman Killed by Gunmen in Monteria F 3
Police Chiefs Meet To Discuss Public Order F 3

ECUADOR

Febres Cordero Speaks on National Situation G 1
Police Arrest U.S. Television Correspondent [EFE] G 5
Vargas Pazzos Urges Fight Against 'Dictatorship' [AFP] G 5

PARAGUAY

Police Prevent Anniversary Gathering at ABC COLOR [AFP] H 1
Catholic Mass 'Repressed' [AFP] H 1
National Accord 'Will Abstain' From 1988 Elections [LA TARDE 11 Mar] H 2
Baez Mosqueira Released After 36 Hours in Jail [EL DIARIO 21 Mar] H 2
European Delegation Criticizes National Situation [AFP] H 3

PERU

State of Emergency Extended for 60 More Days J 1
Cuban Plane Delayed by False-Alarm Bomb Threat [EFE] J 1
FRG President Visits Lima En Route to Guatemala [DPA] J 1
Guerrilla Leader, Wife Extradited to Ecuador [AFP] J 1
Briefs: Ambassadors Present Credentials J 1

VENEZUELA

Colombian Ambassador Seeks Joint Drug Efforts L 1
Lusinchi Calls Merida Violence 'Grotesque' L 1

MEXICO

Peruvian President Garcia Ends Official Visit M 1
Opposition Parties Disapprove of New Loan [THE NEWS 22 Mar] M 1
Polish Official on Expanding Commercial Links [EL NACIONAL 19 Mar] M 2
Briefs: Pemex Production Figures; Steel Exports Increase M 2

CENTRAL AMERICA

BELIZE

Government Announces Budget; Fuel Price Increases P 1
Briefs: Ambassador Presents Credentials P 2

EL SALVADOR

Interview With FMLN Commander Rebeca Palacios [EL DIA 22 Mar] P 2
Grenade Thrown at Chamber of Commerce Offices P 4
FMLN Views Decline of Coffee Prices [Venceremos] P 4

HONDURAS

Azcona Comments on Government Corruption P 5

NICARAGUA

Ortega Calls Reagan Position 'Irrational' [Havana] P 8
Ortega Comments on Nonaligned Meeting in Guyana [Havana] P 8

Vice President Ramirez Views Area Situation [Havana] P 9
Obando y Bravo Criticizes 'People's Church' [Asuncion HOY 13 Mar] P 9
Contras Sabotage Powerline Near Honduran Border [AFP] P 10

CUBA

Rodriguez, Foreign Leaders Attend Plant Opening Q 1
Delegation Attends Regional Meeting on Environment Q 1
Latin American Planning Conference Held in Havana Q 1
Uruguay To Host Next Meeting Q 2
Radio Comments on SELA Meeting, Foreign Debt Q 2
Havana Views 'Corruption' in Honduran Army Q 3
Nonaligned Support Panama's Rights Over Canal Q 4
Castro Receives Honorary Degree From Bolivia Q 5
Peru To Sign Technology Exchange Agreement Q 5
Grenadian Oppositionist Deplores Current Situation Q 5
Espin Arrives in GDR for Women's Conference Q 6
[cross-reference]
Economic Industrial Commission With Spain Meets Q 6
Delegation Visits Ministries Q 6
Veiga Visits Matanzas Agroindustrial Complex Q 7
ANPP President States Purpose of Inspections Q 7
ANAP Fails To Meet Sugarcane Delivery Goals Q 7
Cutters Brigade Receives 2 Million-Arroba Banner Q 7
Workers Given 'Priority' Care in Granma Q 8
Politburo Member Calls for Greater Harvest Efforts Q 8
Espin Attends Food Radiation Plant Opening Q 8
Havana Anti-Malaria Contingent Gets Banner Q 9
Aldana Speaks at Social Welfare Seminar Q 9
Public Health Ministry Reports on Mortality Rate Q 10
Havana Delegation to UJC Congress Elected Q 10
Correction to Rodriguez Remarks on Foreign Debt Q 10
Briefs: Forestry Agreement With USSR Q 10

CARIBBEAN

DOMINICA

Threats Force Carib To Resign From Council S 1

ST LUCIA

Compton To Pay 'Priority Attention' to OECS S 1

TURKS AND CAICOS

Legislature Criticizes Advisory Council S 2

LABOR LEADER ALDERETE ACCEPTS MINISTERIAL POST

PY262241 Paris AFP in Spanish 0435 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Mar (AFP) -- Carlos Alderete, and Argentine labor union leader tonight accepted the president's offer to take over the Labor Ministry, but made his acceptance subject to the approval of the Light and Power Workers Union, according to Alderete's friends.

Alderete, who is in Rome with other union leaders visiting the Vatican and holding talks with Italian labor union leaders, tonight spoke by telephone with Argentine President Raul Alfonsin. He told Alfonsin that he was willing to accept the post left vacant by Hugo Barrioneuvo's resignation on 23 March, the sources said.

Alfonsin had offered the job to Jose Rodriguez, a Peronist deputy and a leader of the Trade Union of Mechanics and Related Automotive Transportation Workers, but the pressure from union leaders forced Rodriguez to decline and Alfonsin offered the job to Alderete.

CAPUTO TO IMPLEMENT MALVINAS STRATEGY ISSUE

PY261901 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1730 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Mar (NA) -- Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo will leave for the United States next week, probably on Wednesday, to begin implementing Argentine foreign policy strategy regarding the Malvinas issue this year at the UN General Assembly.

Argentine Ambassador Marcelo Delpech will conclude his term as president of the UN Security Council during Caputo's visit to the United States, which will last no more than 48 hours.

During Delpech's term -- each member holds the presidency for 1 month -- the Security Council discussed such issues as the Iranian-Iraqi war and the Namibian conflict.

DEFENSE MINISTER ORDERS ARREST OF RETIRED GENERAL

PY261550 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1239 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Mar (TELAM) -- Defense Minister Horacio Jaunarena has ordered the arrest for 20 days of Major General Antonio Domingo Bussi, retired, who was taken this morning to a I Corps unit in La Pampa, where he will serve his term.

In a communique, the Defense Ministry Press Office reported that Gen Bussi was punished because the defense minister regards as inappropriate and contrary to law Gen Bussi's request that Army Chief of Staff General Hector Rios Erenu be brought before a Court of Honor.

FRG'S VON WEIZSAECKER DEPARTS; VISIT ASSESSED

PY252018 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Bolivian President Victor Paz Estenssoro has stated that the visit of FRG President Richard von Weizsaecker to Bolivia has confirmed the consolidation of the democratic process in Bolivia.

President Paz Estenssoro made these remarks this morning at EL ALTO International Airport upon bidding farewell to FRG President Weizsaecker, who departed for Guatemala, continuing his tour through Latin American countries.

[Begin recording] [Paz Estenssoro] His visit shows the consolidation of democracy in Bolivia. This is recognized by the FRG and other European and Latin American countries.

[Reporter] Are you going to visit the FRG at Weizsaecker's invitation?

[Paz Estenssoro] Yes, but the date has not yet been set. [end recording]

Paz Estenssoro added that the agreements signed with the FRG are positive for the country, but at this moment the reporters could not continue talking with the president because the security forces prevented them from asking further questions about the overall situation and about the hunger strikes in the country.

DEFENSE MINISTER ON SEA OUTLET, JOINT EXERCISES

PY241740 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] According to remarks made by National Defense Minister Luis Fernando Valle, the Bolivian Armed Forces will support any action aimed at recovering the sea outlet which Bolivia lost during the War of the Pacific [Bolivia lost its coastal region to Chile 1879-83].

Valle made this statement during a ceremony marking the Day of the Sea. He explained the position of the Bolivian Armed Forces concerning the recovery of the sea outlet.

Fernando Valle said that the position of the Bolivian Armed Forces remains unchanged since the aim of the Bolivian Armed Forces will always be to recover our lost coastal region.

Let us now listen to his comments.

[Begin Valle recording] Well, the ceremony to mark 23 March is an occasion to remember the national goal of recovering the sea outlet.

The Bolivian Armed Forces have set for themselves an aim. We have a right to a sea outlet and it is our duty to recover it.

We have seen that, based on the president's comments this morning in his speech, we must follow all possibilities.

It is no longer possible for a nation to fully develop without a sea outlet.

We fully support the presidential position and reassert the staunch support of the Bolivian Armed Forces for any action involved in the recovery of our lost coastal lands. [end recording]

The national defense minister said that the Bolivia-U.S. military exercises must be conducted on 11-23 May without fail, and that all necessary preparations are being made.

These exercises are a priority for the Bolivian Armed Forces, they are planned every year, and are an important part of the training of the Bolivian officers, Valle said.

[Begin recording] [Valle] I understand that next week the military leadership will confirm the holding of these joint exercises.

This matter is being assessed carefully by the Armed Forces, especially the updating of the methods and systems of conventional and unconventional modern warfare.

As soon as the military leadership arrives at a conclusion, I will report it to the president of the Republic and then we will have to go to the National Congress for the appropriate authorization. It will depend on the congressional decision whether or not the joint military exercises between the Bolivian and U.S. Armed Forces will be conducted.

[Question] Does this involve greater expenses for the government?

[Valle] No, on the contrary. These exercises save money because we usually must train our officers on our own. The arrival of the U.S. Armed Forces, bringing equipment and modern technology, saves us a lot of money in the general and special training of our officers. [end recording]

These were the comments made by National Defense Minister Luis Fernando Valle, referring to the Bolivia-U.S. '87 exercises.

FOREIGN MINISTER ON INTEGRATION WITH ARGENTINA

PY210207 Paris AFP in Spanish 1437 GMT 20 Mar 87

[Text] La Paz, 20 Mar (AFP) -- From now on the Bolivian Government will give more importance to relations with Argentina within a general diplomatic framework, Bolivian Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal said here today. The minister said that ties with Argentina should go beyond gas sales contracts, thus referring to the important role that the bilateral treatment of gas sales to Argentina have had in recent years, mainly involving prices and volume of gas exports for the past 15 years.

Bedregal said that relations with Argentina have been renewed, and that "we have lost time thinking that our relations with Argentina implied little more than a simple trade exchange." The Bolivian foreign minister said that from now on a new outline of integration policy with Argentina will be studied in keeping with the achievements of the River Plate Basin integration proposal, as well as with energy and railway integration, and with other projects that encourage the traditional Bolivian-Argentine friendship.

PLANNING MINISTER TEIXEIRA INSTALLED 25 MARCH

PY261543 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Anibal Teixeira has been installed as planning minister. The Secretariat for the Control of State-Owned Enterprises has been removed from the Planning Ministry's control; however, the Planning Ministry gained control over the Secretariat for Community Affairs.

Teixeira guaranteed that these changes help to define the functions of the Planning Ministry so as to enable it to work to achieve the goals of the Sarney adminstration.

[Begin relay] The presidential decree was published in today's official gazette. The decree establishes that the SEPLAN [Secretariat for Planning] retains the Secretariat for Coordinating State and Municipal Affairs [SAREM] and the Secretariat for Budgeting and Finance [SOFI]. It has been announced that the SOFI would be transferred to the Secretariat of the Treasury, which is subordinate to the Finance Ministry. Minister Anibal Teixeira reported, however, that it is difficult to do any planning without having details of the unions' budgets. He added that the Secretariat for Economic Technical International Cooperation [SUBI], which is handling the loans from the World Bank and the IDB, will be (?eliminated). Teixeira announced that the SUBI will be replaced by an advisory office to handle the international affairs. Anibal Teixeira now explains why he does not feel he is inheriting a weak ministry.

[Begin recording] [Teixeira] I feel that the SEPLAN has now been relieved of some problems that continuously cause debate and conflict and has received the important (?task) of general coordination.

[Question] Are the functions of the Planning Ministry and those of the Finance Ministry well defined?

[Teixeira] They are well defined now and I feel this is a positive fact which will permit the ministry to work to achieve the president's goals; that is, to outline a socioeconomic program with a strong emphasis on paying the social debt. [end recording]

During the ceremony held at the main hall of the Planning Ministry, which was attended by Minas Gerais Governor Newton Cardoso, Interior Minister Rolando Costa Couto, and by other politicians, [outgoing Planning] Minister Joao Sayad briefly reviewed his achievements during his 2 years with the SEPLAN. Sayad said that he, along with all the SEPLAN officials, met the social priorities outlined in the first national development program of the New Republic, and consolidated budgets, making efforts to clarify all governmental circle budgets, especially those of state-owned enterprises.

Nevertheless, the former planning minister also spoke of the suffering and the emotions experienced during the implementation of the Cruzado Plan in February 1986. [end relay]

PAYMENT OF SHORT-TERM CREDIT EXTENDED 60 DAYS

PY262230 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 26 Mar 87 p 21

[Text] Brasilia -- On 25 March, the Central Bank addressed a telex to Brazil's approximately 700 creditor banks asking that the banks voluntarily maintain for another 60 days the short-term lines of credit amounting to $15 billion (321 billion cruzados). [paragraph continues]

Central Bank President Francisco Gros, who arrived in Brazil on 25 March, reviewed the text of the telex message that was sent to the international banks at the end of the day.

The telex message was sent to the creditor banks in order to formalize the extension of the short-term lines of credit that was worked out at the beginning of the week between Gros and the Advisory Committee of the creditor banks. The committee itself participated in the drafting of the telex, and it also gave its guarantee that it would overcome any eventual resistance by the banks.

The short-term lines of credit amount to $15 billion and expire on 31 March, but have now been extended for 60 days and will expire on 30 May. These lines of credit support Brazilian imports, and if they were not renewed, Brazil's foreign trade could collapse.

At the beginning of this month in New York, Gros initially proposed that the short-term lines of credit be extended 90 days, but the Advisory Committee gave its guarantee for a 60-day extension, which, according to Gros, will basically serve to give the Brazilian Government time to implement its internal economic program and to definitely negotiate the payment of its foreign debt.

PCB LEADER RETURNS FROM MOSCOW AFTER OPERATION

PY220130 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 21 Mar 87 p 2

[From the "Political Review" column]

[Text] Giacondo Dias, chairman of the provisional national board of the Brazilian Communist Party [PCB], returned to Brazil 2 days ago from Moscow, where he underwent a serious operation from which he is still recovering. The PCB National Board has decided to postpone the PCB Congress that was to be held in May until July.

CAPE VERDE DEFENSE MINISTER SIGNS MEMORANDUM

PY252120 Paris AFP in Spanish 1727 GMT 21 Mar 87

[Text] Brasilia, 21 Mar (AFP) -- The Brazilian Foreign Ministry today announced that, according to a memorandum of understanding signed in Brasilia by Cape Verdian Minister of Armed Forces and Security Julio Cesar de Carvalho, Brazilian experts will train military personnel from the Island African republic of Cape Verde.

The training of the Cape Verdian military personnel and military police will include quartermaster services, finance, military psychological techniques, mechanics, electricity, social communications, and other fields.

The memorandum also includes the possibility of Cape Verde purchasing patrol boats and military trucks from Brazil.

Carvalho announced that, in response to an invitation issued by President Jose Sarney, Cape Verdian President Aristides Pereira will make an official visit to Brazil in early April 1987.

FIRST NEW NEWSPAPER SINCE 1973 COUP APPEARS

PY242132 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2145 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Excerpts] Santiago, 18 Mar 87 (EFE) -- The new daily LA EPOCA appeared in Chile today. This is the first and only daily not printed by existing publishing enterprises authorized to appear since the military coup of September 1973.

In its first editorial, the new 32-page tabloid, has defined itself as an independent, professional, pluralist, and democratic newspaper opposed to any type of dictatorship.

Because of its size, format and style, the newspaper is very similar to Madrid's EL PAIS and according to Emilio Filippi, director of LA EPOCA, this is not a mere coincidence.

In statements to EFE, shortly before the new Chilean daily appeared, Filippi explained that the Spanish newspaper had been used as a professional model by LA EPOCA. "Moreover," he added, "we have used EL PAIS not only because it is a good professional model but also because it has historic meaning due to the decisive role it played in the return to democracy in Spain, and because we want to play a decisive role in the recovery of democracy in Chile." "We wish to meet the Chilean people's need to have an independent, highly professional, pluralist newspaper, capable of upholding democracy here and now."

Filippi added: It has been our desire to publish a newspaper that will meet the Chilean people's need to be correctly informed, especially now that we approach the deadlines for the upcoming political decisions, the great and important decisions that will have to be made in order to have the necessary tools with which to make a free choice."

Reiterating, Filippi said that he believes there is no hope for Chile to freely decide what path it will take in the future if there is no free, pluralist, independent, objective newspapers willing to respect various ideas and stances, without bias. [passage omitted] The daily's publishing company was established with $1.5 million capital, and is owned exclusively by Chilean citizens. It has no direct or indirect link with any group, be it of a political, economic, or other nature. Regarding the newspaper's staff, 29-year-old Ascanio Cavallo holds the post of general director and is second in charge after Emilio Filippi.

The news department's staff includes experienced professionals among whom are: former newspapers editors Alberto Gamboa and Roman Alegria (who worked for the now defunct) EL CLARIN, television reporters such as Leonardo Caceres (formely of television Channel 13 and recently authorized to return to Chile) and former magazine directors such as Juan Ramon Silva (who worked for the defunct SIETE DIAS magazine.) Along with these people, there is an entire new generation of journalists, whose youth brings the staff's average age down to 32 years.

Emilio Filippi told EFE that "we all have great faith in LA EPOCA and are determined to fulfill our commitment." He ended by stating that: "Above all we wish to fulfill in Chile the role that various newspapers, especially EL PAIS, which we have taken as an example, have fulfilled in Spain."

PCCH MEMBERS HOLD CLANDESTINE NEWS CONFERENCE

PY242249 Santiago ANALISIS in Spanish 10-16 Mar 87 p 6

[Individual speakers not specified]

[Text] In a "clandestine" news conference, two members of the Communist Party Board, Jaime Insunza and Luis Alberto Faundez, explained their party's position regarding the current and future Chilean political situation.

"The reaction of the other democratic forces to this proposal, (see ANALISIS No 163) [of 24 February 1987], has been generally positive. We are ready to seek an agreement with the opposition. If this agreement cannot be easily reached, we will have to seek parallel solutions in order to pursue a common objective.

"We have never said we want a socialist regime for Chile immediately; we have said we intend to implement in the country the most advanced type of democracy possible. To this extent, we are seeking to reach an agreement, a common, democratic, nationwide political solution. On this understanding we are ready to discuss all the aspects of our political life, including the military aspect."

"It is in our best interest that the electoral law be rejected, and that the opposition parties do not register under the new Political Parties Law. We support the opposition parties' rejection of the electoral law. The call for electoral registration displeased us because we expected to be able to close ranks with the other democratic forces, however, we will not oppose the registration. We propose that we agree on a system of direct electoral registration which will assure all the people that they will register for truly democratic elections.

"We thoroughly defend the people's rights as citizens, and their right to register for elections. Nevertheless, we believe that no one should be excluded, and that the elections should be up-dated, and should have democratic mechanisms of control to be used in democratic elections. The main point, however, is not whether we should register for the elections or not. Our main concern is to search for a common position to be shared with the rest of the opposition, thus ensuring that really democratic elections are held."

"We have always supported free elections. Nevertheless, to have free elections, Pinochet must leave office because he will not allow free elections as long as he is in power. A campaign for free elections will preclude the exclusionist tendencies of certain democratic sectors. Through accords and previous agreements on how to conduct this campaign, we can clearly determine the aspects of our participation."

"Minister Cuadra's statement about violence during the pope's visit are provocative, and will justify further repression by the government. During the pope's visit, if the people are hungry, they will protest that they are hungry; if they long for justice and freedom, they will say so. We hope that the pope does not come only to preach, but also to listen to the clamor of the people. From this point of view, we believe that the pope's visit will strengthen our democratic struggle. We have a great respect for the pope and for the Chilean Catholic Church. Therefore, do not expect us to boycott the pope's visit or to upset public order."

"We made a historical error in the past when we overlooked the military force as a means of defending the popular and democratic government. [paragraph continues]

We do not defend the principle of violence, violence is a consequence of the regime. During recent years, however, we have learned that we must be ready to defend the country against the antidemocratic forces on all fronts. The dictatorships cannot be ousted through traditional methods.

"To reach an agreement with the other democratic forces we are ready to discuss our military policies with them, without having to give up these policies. We will discuss methods the people can adopt to defend themselves, because we consider that defenseless people have a right to self-defense. We will also agree to attempt to convince the military men to tread the democratic path. We will continue to prepare and train military cadres. Depending on the agreements reached with the other democratic forces, these cadres will or will not be used. If we do not reach a broader agreement, we may have to face more serious confrontations with the regime."

"A split revolutionary party does not contribute to the democratic struggle. If such a split occurred, it would be bad for the Popular Democratic Movement, and it would help the dictatorship. We are ready to sponsor an agreement within the MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left], if, in this way, we can avoid a split."

"We believe that our proposals have been generous, broad, and flexible. We have often attempted to reach an agreement with the rest of the democratic forces. We have even played the part of the "rejected suitor" who keeps knocking at his girlfriend's door. However, if this proposal is not agreed upon, we will continue until all democrats reach an agreement to oust the regime."

'ONLY 18.9 PERCENT' OF AUTHORIZED EXILES RETURN

PY242015 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] The Immigration Department of the International Investigations Police has reported, through its Public Relations Department, that of a total of 9,233 people authorized to return to the country from 1982 to the present, only 1,746 have indeed returned; this represents only 18.9 percent of the total.

The statistics are as follows: Of the 171 persons authorized to return in 1982, only 57 have returned; in 1983, only 558 of the 4,373 have returned; in 1984, of the 1,565 authorized persons, only 608 have returned; in 1985, only 309 of the 763 have returned; in 1986, of the 334 authorized people, only 178 have returned; and in 1987, to date, of the 2,027 authorized to do so, only 36 have returned.

BRIEFS

RELATIONS WITH MALDIVES ESTABLISHED -- The government has reported that Chile and the Republic of Maldives have established diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level. Notes were exchanged through the Chilean Ambassador in India Marcelo Padilla on 1 March 1987. [Summary] [Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 3 Mar 87 p 16 PY]

NEW JOINT CHIEF OF STAFF -- Vice Admiral Rigoberto Cruz Jonson this morning took over the post of national defense joint chief of staff for a 2-year term. [Excerpt] [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 7 Mar 87 p C 11 PY]

SOVIET DELEGATION ARRIVES FOR 5-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT

PA252010 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] The USSR and Colombia have begun exchanging information to improve political and commercial relations. A Supreme Soviet delegation arrived in Bogota and in a few hours will meet the Colombian Congress and President Virgilio Barco.

The delegation is headed by Supreme Soviet Deputy Chairman Grant Voskanyan. Referring to relations and cooperation between the USSR and Colombia, Voskanyan spoke about the struggle to save humanity from nuclear catastrophe, and expressed support for eliminating enmity and war conflict spots and for a denuclearized world.

On the topic of Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to Mexico and Argentina, it was said that no date has been set. On the topic of the U.S. position on the elimination of short- and medium-range missiles, the Russians say that they are still optimistic. The Russians have arrived and will stay in Colombia 5 days.

MILITARY, LIBERALS DRAFT ANTIVIOLENCE PLAN

PA260414 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] The military High Command and members of the National Liberal Directorate have agreed on an overall political and military plan to counter the escalation of subversion and insecurity in the country. An agreement was reached at the end of a 4-hour meeting at the Defense Ministry.

[Begin Minister General Rafael Samudio Molina recording] Military solutions are required in some areas, while political solutions are necessary in others. This is an overall plan. The mistake has been made many times to believe that a military solution is not needed, or, on the other hand, that a military, and not a political solution is called for. We are torn between these two models. There must be an overall solution. [end recording]

Political and military leaders agreed on the establishment of a joint front to safeguard institutions, from the National Congress to the areas affected by violence. Regarding the state of war the country is living under the president of the National Liberal Directorate said:

[Begin Ernesto Samper Pizano recording] We agreed that the country is at war and that various paths must be followed to end it. There is not a single road to peace. One path is maintaining a military presence in the areas of conflict. We agree with this. There are also political solutions, including those set forth by President Barco regarding rehabilitation programs and the struggle against absolute poverty. As a political party, we must work on finding political solutions. That is what we are doing. [end recording]

ELN REBELS BURN VEHICLES, DAMAGE PIPELINE IN ARAUCA

PA212327 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 1807 GMT 20 Mar 87

[Text] Bogota, 20 Mar (REUTER) — Police reported today that guerrillas intercepted and set fire to three trucks carrying chemicals belonging to a multinational company in Arauca Intendancy, in northeastern Colombia.

National Liberation Army (ELN) guerrillas yesterday stopped a five-vehicle convoy of INTERCOL [International Petrolem (Colombia) Limited] near the town of Fortoul and set fire to three trucks loaded with 18,300 gallons of chemical mud [lodo quimico].

The police added that approximately 20 heavily-armed men dressed in Army uniforms spilled the 7,000 gallons of chemical mud carried by the two other trucks. The losses were estimated at $250,000.

The ELN yesterday blew up a control tower of the pipeline that transports oil from the Cravo Norte field in Arauca Intendancy, which is jointly exploited by Occidental Petroleum Corporation and the state-owned Colombian Petroleum Enterprise (ECOPETROL).

INTERCOL is an EXXON affiliate that exploits the huge Cerrejon local field in La Guajira, in the country's northern tip, under a partnership contract with Colombian Coal, Inc.

The ELN has claimed credit for the attacks on the vital Cano-Limon-Covenas pipeline and installations and camps of the multinational companies operating in Colomba.

UP REPORTS ON NEW 'DEATH SQUAD' IN NORTHEAST

PA222151 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0227 GMT 21 Mar 87

[Text] Bogota, 20 Mar (EFE) -- A new "death squad" has appeared in northeastern Colombia with the purpose of murdering Patriotic Unity (UP) leaders, according to that political group.

The band goes by the acronym "MRN" (Muerte a Revolucionarios del Noreste) [Death to the Revolutionaries from the Northeast], and it is "making all types of insults and provocations against the democratic movements" of the banana region of Uraba, in Antioquia Department, the UP and the Communist Party of Colombia (PCC) have charged.

According to the UP and the PCC, the "MRN" proclaims "terrorism and violence [in slogans painted] on walls and in pamphlets." It describes itself as a "paramilitary" group that will increase the list of other similar death organizations.

A communique issued by the PCC group in Uraba charges the new squad has appeared, and then states that "we are a worker-peasant population that is the victim of the most horrible crimes" by these organizations of murderers.

"The bloody paramilitary groups that appear now in the region, disguised as MRN and the saviors of the northeast, cannot hide this," the communique adds.

After warning the residents of Uraba about the presence of the MRN, the communique adds that "we know who our enemy is" and "we will not fall into the anarchy, chaos, and violence that these henchmen want to sow."

In concluding, the PCC and the UP alert "the peasants, workers, students, teachers, housewives, businessmen, and everyone who wants peace and progress so we will not allow ourselves to be confused and fall into the claws of this rotten fetus of the macabre mentality of the Army intelligence services."

The UP and the PCC have reported on previous occasions the appearances of other paramilitary groups such as the MAS [Death to Kidnappers], the Crickets [Los Grillos], the Smudged Ones, and others that have been the scourge of various regions in the country.

COUNCILMAN KILLED BY GUNMEN IN MONTERIA

PA231520 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1730 GMT 21 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Monteria -- Oscar Luis Polo Polo, a Liberal municipal councilman, was assassinated a few hours ago by gunmen near his home. According to the official report, the political leader was intercepted by two men on a motorcycle who shot him to death. Some weeks ago, the councilman played a leading role in the break-up of the majority coalition in the municipal council. This act caused some controversy in Monteria. Spokesmen of the Liberal Insurgency Movement [Movimiento Insurgencia Liberal], to which the assassinated councilman belonged, condemned the attack and warned of possible political motives behind the assassination. [passage omitted]

POLICE CHIEFS MEET TO DISCUSS PUBLIC ORDER

PA182351 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Report by Hernando Corral]

[Excerpt] Today in Bogota, a summit meeting of top police chiefs began to assess problems concerning public order in different parts of the country.

[Begin Defense Minister General Rafael Samudio recording] We cannot let subversion, terrorism, and crime continue. Therefore, we will use our entire military apparatus and all our means to control this situation. [end recording]

General Jose Guillermo Medina Sanchez, National Police general director, said that the summit meeting will serve to review ways to prevent guerrillas from storming villages where there is little police protection. He also rejected charges that a Colombian general is involved in drug trafficking.

[Begin Medina recording] I would like to respond by posing a question to the Promec newscast [aired by Inravision Television Cadena 1]. The newscast aired the report. We want it to identify that general. As the general director of the National Police, I am sure that no general or officer of this institution is currently involved in drug trafficking. I ask the newsman who made the report to give us the general's name. The dignity and honor of the police generals cannot be questioned. [end recording]

FEBRES CORDERO SPEAKS ON NATIONAL SITUATION

PA270308 Quito Domestic Service in Spanish 0132 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Fellow citizens: A majority of Ecuadoreans have crushed, with a mighty will, the cunning tricks which had been prepared for use against their electoral rights. On 6 May 1984, the Ecuadorean people imposed their democracy and irrevocable will. On that day, the people simultaneously granted me the highest political honor as well as the gravest responsibility ever given to a citizen: To defend our dear fatherland, guide it to a beautiful future, and safeguard the honorable destiny of our children.

I never hid my ideas, convictions, or goals in a cowardly way during the electoral campaign. I am frank; sometimes I am extremely frank. You know that. I have told the truth in the past, I tell the truth now, and I will always tell the truth no matter how pleasant or harsh it may be. All those who voted on 6 May 1984 knew quite clearly that during the 4 years of my government term, up to 10 August 1988, I would struggle for democracy; I would work with energy; and I would fearlessly battle the country's problems, particularly those of the poorest people. Likewise, I would severely punish lies, terroism, drug trafficking, and violations of the law.

Approximately 31 months have passed and I have not deviated for a single day from the path I pledged to the people. This is proved not by the vain words of a few extremists who hate democracy as much as they hate the truth, but by tangible, verifiable, and (?honest) actions. Above all, this is proved by the great problems we have found. You and I, together, have countered these problems in a united and resolute way.

We had to help the country recover from a deep crisis and return the people's trust and faith in work. We have rescued agriculture so that the country may have the necessary food and the peasants may improve their living conditions. Mining activities have gathered momentum; the children have been defended from the ravages of disease; and technical education and higher education are now encouraged. We have built houses, secondary roads, bridges, and potable water systems In short, we are working in all the country's provinces without exception with an intensity unequaled in Ecuador's history.

We were engaged in a full recovery -- this has even been recognized by the international community -- when the oil prices collapsed. Two-thirds of our exports [as heard] and half of the nation's income depended on these prices to pay the public employees and carry out all kinds of projects in the country. The price of oil dropped to a third of what it was early in 1986 and it never rose above half what we had estimated throughout the year However, the government and I were neer terrified. We countered the collosal losses with serene firmness. We sought solutions and implemented the 11 August measures, whose main secret is to trust the Ecuadoreans' courage, initiative, and creativity whenever they are liberated from artificial bureaucratic and economic straitjackets.

Thanks to these measures we could confirm together that the growth of production was fairly good, and the outlook was encouraging. The price of petroleum gradually began to rise this year.

Meanwhile, the government, fulfilling what I had promised in January, intensified its efforts in the areas of cultural development and social progress, launching a battle against our worst social problem: unemployment. I established the manner in which thousands of jobs could be created.

All of a sudden, Ecuadoreans, on 5 March 1987 the violence of nature was unleashed. Earthquakes shook the entire northeastern part of the country, destroying highways, pulverizing bridges, razing hundreds of homes. In a short time the quake destroyed the Ecuadoran economy's main artery: the pipeline that takes petroleum to Balao, brutally interrupting crude oil exports for at least 4 months. The damage and oil losses total the incredible figure of 88 billion sucres.

Initially, and today still, I was moved and am still deeply moved by the grief of the victims. However, I immediately, immediately initiated the reconstruction. Out of a feeling of duty, on 13 March some essential measures were decreed, despite their high political cost. Thanks to the plan created 7 months earlier, to your solidary cooperation, and to the government's courage, the country's productive machinery still exists and is still functioning, although the government is having very, very severe fiscal problems.

In response to this situation, the political opposition, which is absolutely essential in a democratic regime, has been relentless, systematic, and belligerent, and has surpassed the limits of what is wise and prudent. This opposition has been well coordinated and although it is comprised of various ideologies, because of its outrageous zeal to control at all costs the majority in Congress and other bodies of the public sector, it has unfortunately become the submissive and obedient tool of the extreme left-wing groups who hate democracy. They hate it because in democracy they definitely cannot achieve leadership. They despise the Constitution and laws, and are trying to drown the liberties of all Ecuadoreans in waves of fanaticism and totalitarianism.

Any manifestation of these tendencies, which is undoubtedly found in the criminal works of terrorism -- terrorism closely linked to drug trafficking, which in turn attacks basic human rights -- has caused a great many innocent victims, and has been strongly and systematically rejected by all of us. However, Ecuadoreans, what has happened in the institutional sectors has also fully demonstrated a succession of episodes that are not simply random or chance incidents, but rather are the results of a well-defined program, a program of clear objectives and precise methods. In effect, the first goal of the extreme left wing was to besiege the executive branch so that it would irremediably suffer failures in its important efforts. Now, the extreme left wing's goal is to subvert order, to topple, to overthrow the constitutional government, and to decidedly end the democratic system. That system is the Ecuadoreans' chief political virtue.

The opposition has always encouraged an intense desire for revenge. You may recall that from the very beginning of my regime the avowed intention of governing, within quotemarks, from the opposition, was publicly announced, in full violation of the mandates of our Constitution and the principle upon which the essential division between the functions of government are based. Even before the end of August 1984 and destroying the political charter through a simple resolution, the opposition majority in Congress declared that the terms of the justices of the Supreme Court had ended, and tried to replace them with a group that would submit to the opposition's political intentions.

In complying with the strict duty imposed on me by Article 78 of the Constitution -- to comply and to enforce compliance with the Constitution -- I found myself obligated to prevent any trampling of what probably is the most delicate of all public functions.

Later, there were other occasions when it became necessary to act in a similar fashion to safeguard legal order, the country's economic recovery, and the supreme interests of the fatherland.

All of a sudden, extremist groups decided to come out in search of their very radical objective: to do away with the government elected by the people and with the constitutional president of the Republic.

They barefacedly supported a coupist during his adventure of March 1986, an adventure that cost the lives of several humble Ecuadoreans who were mercilessly sacrificed for the sake of senseless ambitions.

A finance minister whose knowledge and honesty has been acknowledged by the entire country and against whom no argument could stand, was dismissed; he was dismissed not as a result of a careful analysis or in an effort to be loyal to the Constitution, but as the result of what I call legislative pacts.

They invented amnesties that were unconstitutional in form and essence. They presented irregular writs of habeas corpus, and they even planned no less than the assassination of the chief of state and his retinue in Taura. This was an episode, the outcome of which I still ignore. This took place when the opposition in Congress was calling for a trial against the person who was the victim of a criminal kidnapping.

Ecuadoreans: These episodes, some of them difficult: others macabre; and others dramatic, but all of them very much linked to each other and definitely directed by the Ecuadoran extreme left, unfortunately have had their most recent manifestations in yesterday's illegal strike -- marked by violence -- and in a resolution by the Constitutional Guarantees Tribunal. The tribunal, disregarding its important function, and, turned into a platform for a political committee composed of most of its members, tried to suspend part of a regulation of the Monetary Board that was a keystone of the 11 August 1986 economic plan that has saved the jobs of hundreds of thousands of Ecuadoreans.

In the midst of the anguish produced by the natural catastrophe, and at a moment when I had offered my hand of solidarity, my hand as an Ecuadorean, to all the people of the country, the Constitutional Guarantees Tribunal tried to sow chaos in Ecuador, to disobey the Constitution and the monetary regulations law, to finish off the stability in the monetary exchange system, to prevent natural resources going into the production sector and making possible the opening of new jobs, to attack the fundamental democratic principle that calls for a division of powers, and to cruelly harm all the citizens so that they, in their desperation, would commit most harmful and irrational actions.

Fellow Ecuadoreans, the Constitution clearly sets forth that the establishment of the monetary policy is the duty of the Monetary Boards as provided for by law. Article 87, 88, and 89 of the Monetary Law determine what the Monetary Board can do about interest rates. This is what the board did when it issued Regulation 367 on 11 August 1986. The board merely applied these articles accurately and precisely. So the regulation is perfectly valid and forms part of an economic plan that has prevented the bankruptcy of Ecuador's economy. Such an economic plan cannot be partially suppressed.

Conversely, the Constitutional Guarantees Tribunal did not have any authority to issue a pronouncement on the regulation dictated by the Monetary Board because, although the Constitution describes the tribunal's only role and mentions the eventual suspension of some norms, it does not mention regulations. In addition, under the public law only that which is expressly authorized can be done legally. Ecuadoreans, according to simple logic and common sense, how can it be accepted that the Constitutional Guarantees Tribunal can annul a Monetary Board regulation that is absolutely according to law and good for the country's economic recovery? The Constitutional Guarantees Tribunal's resolution definitely constitutes an unconstitutional and illegal measure that would curtail the government's administrative power to orient its economic policy. In addition, the tribunal, in a new action that added to the plot, unconstitutionally tried to suspend the rights of citizenship of various political leaders, discriminating between them and their fellow countrymen and preventing them from participating in the national life. In this way, the tribunal revealed a reprehensible posture, because this is not the proper way to show disagreement or the procedure established by the democratic system for political confrontations.

Supposedly according to its own light, the tribunal tried to justify the suspension of the political rights we have mentioned, but the Constitution does not make any provision for such function of this organ. The law invoked by the tribunal does not exist. It simply does not exist, as shown by [words indistinct] and the report released by the state prosecutor, who reported how the Supreme Court of Justice in full annuled the old law in 1979.

The persistent attacks by the far left and disrespect for the country's basic institutions have been hidden under apparent genuineness. Ecuadoreans, those who plot against the democratic system paradoxically appear to be the system's genuine advocates and portray us, the system's true advocates, as its bitterest enemies.

In view of all these criticisms of our republican life, the state's basic and essential agencies, compelled to ensure the enforcement of the Constitution, never voiced their vigorous opposition to actions of this kind. Quite the contrary, in the middle of a smokescreen, these agencies themselves became collaborators of the plotters. These collaborators were none other than those who should have passed judgment on those who would violate the Constitution. The ones who should have punished the aggressors tried to punish the victims.

Fellow citizens, some still believe that attaining a numerical majority is tantamount to giving that group the unique and reprehensible ability to make a clean sweep of the Constitution and the law. An effort has been made to set the majority rule above the Constitution and law.

Fellow countrymen: The seriousness of the problem faced by our country as a result of numerous circumstances has made this long speech necessary. We must be very aware of the basic elements of the nation's panorama, and more so because an electoral process is beginning. Thanks to the civic cooperation of Ecuadoreans, this process will become a new and fundamental factor of consolidation and improvement of our democracy.

The national government has taken steps to ease the suffering of Ecuadoreans. It has reduced the state budget. It has frozen staples prices. It is devoting all its strength and vigor to preventing shortages, and in so doing, defending speculation. The government's work will continue in all of the country's provinces with even greater strength. We will continue to work for the Ecuadorean people without respite.

We are not bending under the problems. On the contrary, they move us to redouble efforts and sacrifices, which are permament.

I pledge before you to adopt, once we have cleared the hump of the crisis, measures that cannot be adopted now out of a sense of responsibility and a desire to safeguard the interests of the people. The country has suffered because of past episodes. It has been the main victim of a desire for revenge bitterly directed at me. However, I am fervently acting upon the desire of the people, and once again proposing to all of the country's sectors, with an outstretched hand, a great national reconciliation so that, rejecting sedition and extremism, all of us will work for a solid, prosperous, and just homeland.

Ecuadoreans: Without capitulations or duplicity, let us join hands and unify our will for the good of all and the glorious future of Ecuador.

Thank you very much.

POLICE ARREST U.S. TELEVISION CORRESPONDENT

PA260309 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0231 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Quito, 25 Mar (EFE) -- Timothy Ross, Ecuador correspondent of the U.S. ABC television network, was arrested today by police in Quito while covering street disturbances that occured here in the wake of a strike.

The news, which has not been officially confirmed, was released by Sarah Kendall, wife of the arrested correspondent and correspondent in Ecuador of the FINANCIAL TIMES magazine.

According to his wife, Ross was turned over to the Immigration Police. She is afraid that her husband could be expelled from the country, because although he is accredited as a correspondent, he entered the country today to cover the general strike from Colombia -- where he usually lives on a tourist passport.

VARGAS PAZZOS URGES FIGHT AGAINST 'DICTATORSHIP'

PA261321 Paris AFP in Spanish 0748 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Quito, 25 Mar (AFP) -- General Frank Vargas Pazzos, former Ecuadoran Air Force commander, has sent a message from his hiding place urging people "to rise up and fight against the dictatorship of Leon Febres Cordero." "The economic and social situation of most Ecuadoreans is abusive and dangerous," Vargas Pazzos said. He was imprisoned for insurbordination, but was released in exchange for President Leon Febres Cordero, who was kidnapped by a group of commandos on 16 January.

Vargas Pazzos insisted that the nationwide strike carried out today in Ecuador "is a means to confront the oligarchic and exploiting dictatorship with dignity." He added: "Social conditions in the dictatorial Febres Cordero government have reached a very critical situation in which all possibilities for peace have disappeared."

The pro-Soviet Broad Front of the Left (FADI) held a national convention last week and decided to promote the presidential candidancy of Vargas Pazzos so that he will represent the alliance currently being organized of all the Ecuadoran leftist groups.

POLICE PREVENT ANNIVERSARY GATHERING AT ABC COLOR

PY240246 Paris AFP in Spanish 2007 GMT 22 Mar 87

[Text] Asuncion, 22 Mar (AFP) -- The Political Police today prevented Aldo Zuccolillo, director of the government-closed independent daily ABC COLOR, from entering his newspaper's offices. Police cordoned off the area and prohibited traffic and people near the building. Today is the third anniversary of the closing of the newspaper.

Zuccolillo, accompanied by the AFP correspondent in Asuncion, whom he had invited, parked his car some 60 meters away from the building and walked to the main door where he was intercepted by Political Police. The police said they had orders not to allow Zuccolillo and the AFP correspondent to enter. However, after verifying the identification of both Zuccolillo and the AFP correspondent, the police decided to allow the owner to enter, alone. Zuccolillo emphatically refused to do this.

Zuccolillo, visibly annoyed by the police action, told the AFP correspondent that he had just witnessed a demonstration of the arbitrariness with which the military government in Paraguay has been trampling on people's rights for the last 33 years. Zuccolillo added that European and Brazilian congressmen and journalists from important news media, including the United States, who arrived in Asuncion over the weekend, will see how the government deals with its people. The government only hurts its image. It later complains because (Alfredo) Stroessner's regime has the international image of a corrupt and arrogant dictatorship. What the Political Police do in front of foreign witnesses merely confirms this impression abroad.

Zuccolillo stressed that the police siege of ABC COLOR on its anniversaries has become routine. He compared this practice with the Nicaraguan Sandinist government's attitude against the independent press of that country. The two countries are like twin brothers, he added. Zuccolillo said he did not understand why the government gets upset on the anniversary of the arbitrary shut-down or at the friends of the newspaper when they gather on this day. He stressed that this suggests that the government continues to be afraid of freedom of the press, even though ABC remains closed.

Zuccolillo does not believe his newspaper will be allowed to reopen under the current regime. He added that Stroessner is terrified by the investigations into corruption the newspaper had conducted and the newspapers currently published forget. He stated that the regime maintains the ban on ABC COLOR and harasses other independent media such as Radio Nanduti and the Catholic station Radio Charitas to avoid investigations into the millions of dollars taken from public coffers and hundreds of millions more stolen from the Paraguayan Central Bank.

Catholic Mass 'Repressed'

PY231229 Paris AFP in Spanish 0221 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] Asuncion, 22 Mar (AFP) -- Paraguayan Political Police today violently repressed a group of people leaving the Metropolitan Cathedral after attending a religious service marking the third anniversary of the closing of ABC COLOR. This ceremony was also attended by Brazilian deputies and diplomats from the United States and other countries.

The policemen went a few meters into the cathedral to beat some opposition members who were trying to flee shortly after the service ended.

According to some witnesses, Brazilian Senator Severo Gomez was shoved during the incident and was protected by leaders of the opposition to the regime of General Alfredo Stroessner. These leaders were clubbed and kicked by policemen.

NATIONAL ACCORD 'WILL ABSTAIN' FROM 1988 ELECTIONS

PY191529 Asuncion LA TARDE in Spanish 11 Mar 87 p 8

[Text] Waldino Ramon Lovera, president of the National Accord [AN], this morning confirmed that this coalition organization will "abstain" from participating in the general elections next year. The official decision was made yesterday after a confidential meeting.

Regarding the elections, Lovera, who is a member of the Popular Colorado Movement (MOPOCO), said that "in accordance with the AN member's abstentionist policies, which was decided during their convention, the AN has confirmed that it will not change its abstentionist policy."

Lovera added that this policy will be maintained until signs of changes and guarantees for the February 1988 elections appear.

Lovera pointed out that "the AN position not to participate in the elections will be maintained for the time being because there are not enough guarantees for clean elections and full respect for people's rights."

The issue of AN participation in the general elections has created serious disagreements among AN leaders because some of them strongly oppose any participation while others favor it. This decision confirms the comments in political sectors that the AN will not participate in next year's elections.

Another issue discussed by the AN yesterday was the selection of a delegation to travel to Brazil to attend the inauguration of the new Brazilian governors for the Parana and Rio Grande do Sul States on 15 March.

The delegation will leave for Brazil on 14 March at the invitation of high officials from those states.

BAEZ MOSQUEIRA RELEASED AFTER 36 HOURS IN JAIL

PY211359 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 21 Mar 87 p 10

[Text] Victor Baez Mosqueira, current coordinator of the Interunion Labor Movement [MIT] and secretary general of the FETRABAN [Federation of Bank Workers] was released early yesterday morning after spending 36 hours in detention at Metropolitan Police headquarters. He was arrested on 25 March while trying to hold a meeting to launch a "national campaign for union freedom, fair wages and, work for everyone."

After his release Baez Mosqueira reported on his arrest by police agents of the Third Police Precinct Station. He said; "I was held in the cell for common prisoners for 36 hours. Then Officer Schreiber, chief of public order of the Metropolitan Police called me into his office."

Mosqueira added: "Schreiber asked me if I knew -- in fact, he told me that I knew full well -- of the regulation that any meeting requires a permit from the Metropolitan Police. I answered that in the first place according to the law there is freedom to meet, and in the second place the law does not say that a permit is required and furthermore, with or without the permit, the police have always prevented the MIT meetings."

He went on to say that "Officer Schreiber made it very clear that FETRABAN and MIT were quite different. According to the chief of public order, FETRABAN has legal union status. Hence, it can hold any kind of meeting. This is not the case of the MIT, which is a banned organization that has not been recognized by the government. Therefore, I was arrested because of the launching of the campaign for labor union freedom and fair wages, which the MIT was organizing without having first asked for a police permit to hold the meeting."

Later, discussing the way in which a labor union is organized, he said that "the Labor Law simply requires that the new labor union register at the Justice and Labor Ministry, it does not mention anything about recognition."

EUROPEAN DELEGATION CRITICIZES NATIONAL SITUATION

PY251701 Paris AFP in Spanish 0337 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Asuncion, 24 Mar (AFP) -- European Christian Democratic congressmen, who met with government officials, opposition members, and independent politicians to view the true Paraguayan situation, have expressed their astonishment over the distortion of the true social situation by government officials.

The delegation of Christian Democratic politicians from the European Parliament today expressed strong opinions against the governing regime in Paraguay before boarding a plane which took them to Chile. The delegation, headed by Italian lawmaker Giousue Ligios, stayed 3 days in Asuncion. The delegation was comprised of Andobi Mianforte (Italy), the European Parliament vice president and director of the Latin American area; Nicole Fontaine (France); Marietta Giannakou (Greece); Werner Munch (FRG); and Hans Ulrich Rrhe (FRG).

Before departing Paraguay, Ligios reiterated that he was astonished over the way in which Paraguayan Foreign Minister (Carlos) Saldivar, and Paraguayan congressmen, give explanations so distorted from what is actually happening in Paraguay. They intended to delude us as if we did not know what is happening here, Ligios added.

The Italian congressman was surprised that he did not receive any response from the Paraguayan lawmakers over the lack of recognition of the Paraguayan Christian Democratic Party.

Paraguayan Interior Minister Sabino Montanaro unexpectedly cancelled a meeting scheduled with the visiting delegation in his office. This has been interpreted as an open discourtesy by the Paraguayan minister.

Paraguayan Christian Democratic Leader Luis Alfonso Resck said that through the prevailing atmosphere the congressmen realized that they had found themselves amidst a hostile and repressive regime. Resck said that the visiting congressmen were bothered all the time by hammering noises at their hotel and that the times they entered and left the hotel were being monitored. Resck said that every time we, the opposition members, visited them, the noise became deafening to the point that we had to complain to have them stop the noise.

STATE OF EMERGENCY EXTENDED FOR 60 MORE DAYS

PY261446 Lima Radio del Pacifico in Spanish 1300 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] The government has extended the state of emergency in Lima and El Callao for 60 more days because it considers actions provoking public unrest are still being carried out.

The Armed Forces will continue exerting political and military control in these areas and they will take appropriate measures to safeguard order.

CUBAN PLANE DELAYED BY FALSE-ALARM BOMB THREAT

PY261734 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1648 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Lima, 26 Mar (EFE) -- The departure from the Lima Airport of a Cubana de Aviacion airplane was delayed for 2 and 1/2 hours after an anonymous telephone call was received, warning of a bomb on board.

The Jorge Chaves International Airport security team thoroughly searched the plane after evacuating all passengers. They did not find anything. The incident delayed the departure of the Cuban volleyball team that was returning to Havana after having played exhibition games with the Peruvian team.

FRG PRESIDENT VISITS LIMA EN ROUTE TO GUATEMALA

LD260200 Hamburg DPA in German 1650 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Lima, (DPA) -- On his flight from Bolivia to Guatemala, Federal President Richard von Weizsaecker stopped in Lima for 1 hour today. He was welcomed at the military airport by Peruvian Vice President Luis Alberto Sanchez. The Peruvian president is currently visiting Mexico. The two men praised the traditionally good relations between their countries. The 86-year-old Peruvian vice president at one time taught at the German school in Lima.

GUERRILLA LEADER, WIFE EXTRADITED TO ECUADOR

PY182104 Paris AFP in Spanish 1824 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Lima, 18 Mar (AFP) -- Antiterrorist Brigade sources in Lima have revealed that Peru today extradited Ecuadoran guerrilla Edgardo Frias and his wife, Justina Casco, to their country.

Frias, considered second in command of the guerrilla group Alfaro Lives, and his wife traveled by air escorted by General Reyes Roca, the chief of the Peruvian Antiterrorist Directorate (DIRCOTE), the sources announced.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADORS PRESENT CREDENTIALS -- Peruvian President Alan Garcia Perez yesterday received the credentials of the ambassadors of Turkey, Karaboylou; the Dominican Republic, Manuel Guerrero Pou; and the Federative Republic of Yugoslavia, Ladislao Varga. [Excerpt] [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 24 Feb 87 p A-4 PY]

COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR SEEKS JOINT DRUG EFFORTS

PA190405 Caracas Television Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Pedro Gomez Barrero, the new Colombian ambassador to Venezuela, feels the two nations should join forces to combat subversion and drug trafficking. He said this at a meeting with the directors of the Central Information Office, to whom he reiterated the need for unlimited cooperation to erradicate drugs and subversion from the continent. Gomez Barrero also stated the advantages of strengthening ties between the public and private sectors of the two countries and of studying appropriate actions that would benefit both. He stressed the importance of agreeing on the protocol that will modify the Cartagena Agreement, which is currently being studied by the Venezuelan business sector.

[Begin Gomez Barrero recording] I hope that the study will be positive and that we will soon be able to sign the modifying protocol, thus reinitiating a process that has faced difficulties due, especially, to the international trade crisis. I hope a stronger binational relationship will reinitiate activity that, at a later date, will be aimed at the entire Andean sector. [end recording]

LUSINCHI CALLS MERIDA VIOLENCE 'GROTESQUE'

PA200050 Caracas Television Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] President Jaime Lusinchi said during the commemoration of the DISIP [Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services] anniversary that the Venezuelan state is willing to calmly but decisively guarantee the implementation of its historic values, laws, and way of life.

After acknowledging the work and exemplary efficiency of this security corps throughout the past 18 years, President Lusinchi discussed the problems in Merida and reiterated his government's willingness to confront the acts of vandalism aimed against the city's stability, which cannot be justified with superficial talk.

[Begin Lusinchi recording] Merida is a concrete case that I cannot elude. Why? Because the disorder and sacking that has taken place there to the detriment of peace in the city, against the people's property and public peace, is grotesque. [applause] [end recording]

President Lusinchi also said that the situation was handled calmly by competent authorities, who never demonstrated weakness. The president believes the incident was perpetrated by people indifferent to the grief of the victim's relatives.

[Begin Lusinchi recording] This incident does not demonstrate that there is a problem of social order. It demonstrates that there is a conspiracy against state security, [applause] which is closely linked to other actions that may be attempted at any time. I am not willing to tolerate this. [end recording]

PERUVIAN PRESIDENT GARCIA ENDS OFFICIAL VISIT

FL270025 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2324 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Mexico City, 26 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- I am very pleased to leave with a message of Latin American fraternity and nationalist inspiration which should direct the future destinies of the continent. This was said by Peruvian President Alan Garcia at the end of his official visit in Mexico.

Seconds before boarding the Peruvian Air Force DC-8 aircraft that will take him back home, Garcia said he was vey fond of the Mexican people. He asserted: I am not impartial with the people of Mexico because I feel I am part of them, I feel it in the history which is deeply linked with my people.

He said his satisfaction over his 3-day state visit in Mexico is expressed in a joint communique signed with President Miguel de la Madrid yesterday.

The Peruvian head of state said that a permanent consultation organization was created at the political level for cooperation and exchange of goods and services. He added that important decisions were made in virtually all areas. However, he said the most relevant thing is the historic and spiritual message we bring with us.

At the presidential hangar, Alan Garcia was seen off by Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor and his wife, Ana Iturbe de Sepulveda, the Mexican and Peruvian Ambassadors, Jesus Puente Leyva and Jorge Raigada, respectively, as well as by Protocol Director Pedro Gonzalez Rubio.

OPPOSITION PARTIES DISAPPROVE OF NEW LOAN

PA250037 Mexico City THE NEWS in English 22 Mar 87 p 4

[Excerpt] A survey among opposition parties in Mexico showed their disapproval of the new 7.7 billion dollars loan Mexico has negotiated with its creditor banks.

According to the survey, most of those interviewed think the loans imply "continuing with the policy of mortgaging our sovereignity."

Representatives of the Mexican Unified Socialist Party (PSUM), the National Action Party (PAN) and the Mexican Workers Party (PMT) and other opposition parties agreed that the political cost of renegotiations with the international banking systems is very high, "condemning future generations to dependency."

PSUM representative Ivan Garcia Solis said the majority of Mexicans do not agree with the policy of borrowing more money in order to pay for previous loans and said the new money will not serve to increase productivity in Mexico but only to increase earnings of international lenders.

A PAN official charged that the new flow of money will not go to improve Mexico's standard of living, but instead will be used by the official party for its political campaigns.

A PMT member, Eduardo Valle, said the Baker Plan is not the solution for economic and social problems in the country but simply the adherence to policies determined abroad. [passage omitted]

POLISH OFFICIAL ON EXPANDING COMMERCIAL LINKS

PA210026 Mexico City EL NACIONAL in Spanish 19 Mar 87 p 1

[Article by Jose Luis Aguilar V.]

[Text] Mexico and Poland will promote activities to strengthen bilateral relations and trade. To this end, the fifth meeting of their Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation will be held in Warsaw in May.

This information was given to EL NACIONAL by Polish Deputy Foreign Minister Jan Kinast [title as published]. He also stated that his government wants to expand commercial links with Mexico; trade is presently only about $10 million a year.

He added that they want to increase this amount to $120 million, which is approximately the same as traded with Argentina.

The Polish official was on an official visit to our country to analyze economic, commercial, and cultural relations. He met with high-ranking officials of the Mexican Foreign Affairs Secretariat and with Miguel Mancera Aguayo, general director of the Bank of Mexico.

Before returning to his country, Kinast noted that the Polish Government totally identifies with Mexico's international policies.

He stated that although the bilateral trade balance has always been in Mexico's favor, the Poles are willing to study any proposal of Mexican products. In exchange, Poland offers ample technology in mining and the construction of railroads and ships.

On another subject, Kinast conveyed his government's support for the Contadora Group and for Mexico's attempt to achieve disarmament within the Group of Six. He added that Mexico has won a place of honor in the world community for its peace policies.

BRIEFS

PEMEX PRODUCTION FIGURES — Pemex Director Francisco Rojas Gutierrez has reported that in 1986 Pemex made profits of 747 billion pesos, thus contributing 54 percent of the country's income. The drop in oil prices caused a decrease in income of $8.5 billion, which represented 89 percent of the value of exported goods in all sectors. Proven reserves amounted to 70 million barrels, and average daily production amounted to 2.428 million barrels — 202,000 fewer barrels than in 1985. Refining goals were met with 1.353 million barrels a day of petroleum products being produced. Exports amounted to a daily average of 1.29 million barrels to 52 clients in 23 countries, earning $5,572,000,000. Despite the crisis, Pemex earned 747 billion pesos, and reduced its foreign debt by $390 million. [Summary] [Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1955 GMT 18 Mar 87 PA]

STEEL EXPORTS INCREASE — Mexico's steel exports compensated for the drop in national consumption and contributed $189 million in foreign exchange to the country in 1986, according to Alfredo del Mazo, energy, mines and parastate industry secretary. Last year's exports were three times greater than those registered in 1985, thus demonstrating that the quality of our products is as high as any in the world, and that we are diversifying our exports. Guillermo Becker, upon providing the figures on the steel industry, said that the country's production last year was 7,170,000 tons. [Summary] [Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 0130 GMT 23 Mar 87 PA]

BELIZE

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES BUDGET; FUEL PRICE INCREASES

FL211359 Bridgetown CANA in English 2211 GMT 20 Mar 87

[Text] Belmopan, Belize, March 20, CANA -- Belize today announced price increases on fuels and introduced tariffs on vehicular traffic into this Central American nation.

Prime Minister Manuel Esquivel announced a BZE 226.4 million dollar (one BZE dollar -- 50 cents U.S.) budget in Parliament for the coming fiscal year ending March 31, 1988.

Government hopes to raise 38.7 million dollars in loans to be negotiated and listed as finance pending.

The price of gasoline and diesel will rise by 25 cents for each American gallon and kerosene goes up by 10 cents per gallon, coinciding in April with the next shipment of fuel.

Persons travelling to Belize from Guatemala and Mexico will be charged at 20 dollars for each bus and five dollars for other vehicles. The budget proposals also call for a one dollar exist tax on persons crossing the borders.

Esquivel said the modest new revenue measures were expected to generate an additional 4.5 million dollars during the coming fiscal year.

Government statistics show about 3,000 Belizeans visit the nearby Mexican State of Quintana Roo every week.

Successive devaluations of the Mexican peso have made it attractive to buy consumer and other goods in Mexico but increased spending puts pressure on foreign exchange levels.

The budget also proposes a one dollar charge for exit certificates issued by the income tax department. Under the law, persons leaving the country must get clearance from the income tax department.

Esquivel said the tax measures were modest and broad based, so that their impact on individuals will be minimal.

The budget proposes raising 134.6 million dollars from local revenue and taxes. Capital spending has been estimated at 91.8 million dollars.

A total of 16.3 million dollars will come through local sources, while 36.8 million dollars will come from foreign sources.

The remainder of the planned capital budget will be raised through foreign loans.

Provisional government statistics indicate the economy grew from 1.2 per cent to 1.5 per cent last year.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS -- West German state ambassador to Belize has presented his credentials to the governor general. Ambassador Rolf Enders also presented the letters of recall of his predecessor, Mr Richard Wagner. The presentation took place this morning at the Belize House, the governor general's official downtown residence. The ceremony was witnessed by Mr Abel E. Lopez, West German honorary consul in Belize. Ambassador Enders has met Prime Minister Manuel Esquivel and Foreign Minister Dean Barrow. This afternoon, the ambassador met with Deputy Prime Minister of Home Affairs Mr Curl Thompson, Education Minister Elodio Aragon, and the Minister of Commerce and Industry Mr Juan Eduardo. [Excerpts] [Belize City Domestic Service in English 0100 GMT 24 Mar 87 FL]

EL SALVADOR

INTERVIEW WITH FMLN COMMANDER REBECA PALACIOS

PA260147 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 22 Mar 87 p 14

[Interview with FMLN Commander Rebeca Palacios by Gregorio Seiser; date, place not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Question: Military analysts have been talking about a stalemate [preceding word in English], an impasse, or a military balance between the regular Army and the insurgency. Official U.S. statements are optimistic, but Salvadoran spokesmen, such as General Onecifero Blandon, go far beyond that. They predict victory. Is this a psychological move, a false vision, or a willful deliberate illusion?

Rebeca Palacios: It is logical that they, even at the most difficult moment, claim there are no difficulties. They need to portray the image that they are not only in control of the situation, but making progress. They have to give the impression they are defeating us and that the governments must increase their economic and military aid to El Salvador. However, despite anything they may say, it would be good to take a look at the plans they have promoted in the country, including the military plans. It would be good to look at the specific results as regards casualties, the wear and tear of their war economy, and their political deterioration. It would also be good to look at the overall situation; this will provide a more realistic picture.

They began to lose when the large clean-up operations, involving large troop movements promoted by General Jose Guillermo Garcia, failed. There was a famous plan for the restoration of areas. They promoted the "San Vicente is clean" propaganda. They said they were going to go "from one place to another." They gathered more than 7,000 troops in San Vicente...and nothing happened. [passage omitted]

Question: Wasn't it true that the quantity, quality, and morale of the Salvadoran Armed Forces increased?

Rebeca Palacios: No. What we observed was a serious drop in the troops' morale. This was noticed in the loss of offensive capability, in their communiques, and in the high number of desertions. Although I do not have current information, I can tell you that the National Guard is one of the units that fights the least. In November it registered as many as 25 desertions per day.

Question: Isn't the National Guard more of a police unit than a military organization?

Rebeca Palacios: Yes. However, in recent years, an effort was made to get the National Guard involved in the fighting. The National Guard was given the structure of a hunter's [cazadores] battalion but desertions increased. In the past there were many prerequisites — for example, one had to have a certain educational level and could not have flat feet — to join the National Guard. Now, anyone can be a member, even if they have not completed the sixth grade. Why are [the requirements to join] the National Guard and the Bracamonte Battalion, which in the past did not have more than 1,800 [figure as published] members, more flexible now? Simply because they cannot attract enough recruits.

Question: Are they recruiting volunteers or drafting people?

Rebeca Palacios: They are drafting people. However, they only select those who are in better physical condition for the elite battalions The battalions now are not like the Atlacatl — which was made up of the best national guardsmen — used to be. The Armed Forces feel their quality is much lower. They do not have much to choose from, and the recruit pool continues to decrease. [passage omitted]

Question: I understand that in 1981 and 1982 the insurgents were in control of one-third of the national territory. El Salvador has 21,000 square km, which means the guerrillas were in control of 7,000 square km. Is this the current military situation? Has the Army not been able to reduce the scope of this control? Has the Army not recovered anything in the past 5 years?

Palacios; Well, no, the situation has not remained the same. There are areas in which the FMLN has expanded its territorial control and has expanded the clashes, incorporating all the readaptations decided by the General Command during the June 1985 meeting in Morazan. Let me give you an example: Formerly, at the beginning of the war, Chalatenango weas considered as the region located east of the departmental capital, everything else was neglected; now one can go to La Palma, Aguascalientes very close to Santa Na, to the west. All those areas are now under our control. The same is true in Morazan and in northern San Miguel, which were separate regions in the past. They have now been linked, and you can go freely from northern San Miguel to Morazan. You can even enter the northern section of La Union, which was an area we did not have under our control in the past. It was a corridor in dispute, another controlled region. However, those are areas that are now under our control, as is Usulutan. We are now controlling the San Agustin zone known as Tres Calles, very close to the Cuscatlan bridge and the Panamerican highway. The same is happening throughout the coffee-producing area in the Berlin mountain range, where our units are now moving with sufficient freedom.

Question: Have you entered the coffee-producing zone? Was that the area most carefully guarded by the Army, for obvious reasons, as coffee is the main export product?

Rebeca Palacios: That is what was being said We have opened new fronts of operation, forcing the enemy to commit more forces. We have foiled their plan to construct reinforcement forces. La Libertad Department used to be a calm region, but we recently recovered some weapons there in Tanganica. We also now operate there. We found a social base. Thus, the cavalry, which used to serve as reinforcement now has to take care of its rearguard....

Question: Armored cavalry?

Rebeca Palacios: Yes, the armored units now have to send units to pursue guerrillas. San Salvador volcano, which is between La Libertad and San Salvador, was a region where we had only friends. This year the Belloso Battalion was there during the 4 months of the coffee harvest, patrolling the coffee plantations. This was done in the past by the National Guard. Despite the presence of the Belloso Battalion, we destroyed more than 4,000 sacks of coffee of the oligarchy, forced the oligarchy to pay the minimum wage requested by the popular organizations, and harassed Belloso Battalion posts. This is another situation.

On the outskirts of San Salvador, in San Martin Donacatepec where the paramilitary forces formerly protected the scouts [chaneques], the paratroopers now must patrol the land because it is densely populated. There are two permanent squadrons patrolling that region because the FMLN is already operating there. The revolution is growing; there are sabotages, ambushes, and mines. The guerrillas have gained new elements for various tasks, and it has increased the theater of operations at a time when the enemy is suffering a manpower crisis. Previously those troops were used in the area comprising Morazan, San Vicente, and Guazapa. They are now trying to find out how to destabilize our revolutionary rearguard, prevent us from growing stronger, gain access to the masses, and avoid our blows.

Question: Would you say the number of guerrillas has grown?

Rebeca Palacios: Yes, definitely. Not only the number of guerrillas, but the overall popular movement, which has taken a great step forward, particularly last year. This truly gave the Salvadoran revolution a new perspective.

GRENADE THROWN AT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OFFICES

PA262050 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1600 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Individuals riding in an unidentified vehicle hurled a fragmentation grenade at the offices of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of El Salvador, seriously injuring two people, including a woman, who were taken to a hospital, where they are in critical condition.

The offices involved are located at the 7th Avenue North, or 9th Avenue North. [address as heard] [passage omitted].

FMLN VIEWS DECLINE OF COFFEE PRICES

PA170035 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0200 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Commentary: "Coffee, Grain of Gold for a Few, Poverty for Many"]

[Text] Once again coffee prices have dropped on the international market. This means the country will lose millions of dollars. It is not the coffee plantation owners who will suffer the consequences of hunger and poverty, which this phenomenon always brings. The lowered coffee prices, just as earthquakes and other disasters, emphasize the injustice of the capitalist system. When coffee prices rise, those who benefit the least are the people who cut the grain, process it, load and unload it, and receive 3 months wages that must last the entire year. When coffee prices drop, the ones who suffer the consequences most are the laborers. Even the beans and tortilla rations served on the farms decrease.

The lowered coffee prices also demonstrate the unfairness of the international economic order in the capitalist context. The United States, for example, which is one of El Salvador's leading coffee markets, has said that El Salvador is its ally and a friendly country, and yet that alliance and friendship are exploited to sell bombs and military [word indistinct]. However, when it is a matter of immigrants or the price of coffee on the international market, [words indistinct].

What kind of ally and friend is the United States when it does not care that the majority of Salvadorans are [words indistinct], because of the consequences of the whimsical fluctuations of coffee prices? Friendship and cooperation exist among the socialist countries. Cuba's economy depends on sugar exports. The USSR is the leading consumer of Cuban sugar, and when sugar prices on the international market decline, the USSR pays the prices negotiated many years ago for the sugar. The prices are maintained despite fluctuations on the market. This is friendship; this is cooperation.

We hope that one day the countries of the world will base their relations upon solidarity, cooperation, and especially respect. Not abuse, imposition, humiliation, exploitation, and prepotence that relations between the United States and the poorer countries are based upon.

The decline in coffee prices will greatly affect the crisis the Duarte regime is facing, and will intensify our economic and social problems. The U.S. Government knows this, and anyone could say: If the United States has obligations toward the Salvadoran Government, if it is so concerned over El Salvador, why does it not buy coffee from El Salvador at the prices already established? The United States is not going to do this. It has not done it, and it will never do it. Why? Because that is how capitalism works. The fortune of some depends on the misfortune of others. Injustice is the magic formula of capitalism.

The decline in coffee prices will greatly affect the crisis,. It will increase poverty, intensify social tension, and provide more fuel for the social explosion we all anticipate.

HONDURAS

AZCONA COMMENTS ON GOVERNMENT CORRUPTION

PA222249 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 20 Mar 87

[Interview with President Jose Azcona Hoyo by newsman Andres Torres -- date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Begin recording] [Azcona] There is a big fuss about the confidential or discrete appropriations. The budget of the Presidency does not include any item or appropriation that mentions discretionary appropriations. The budget for the Presidency -- as most people know -- includes the Economic Planning Secretariat and the ministry [not further identified]. The funds assigned to it [the Economic Planning Secretariat] will be sent to the ministry. Moreover, the budget for the Presidency covers the Civil Service, Presidential Guard, Ministry of the Presidency, and other overall appropriations that the National Congress approved.

Regarding the appropriations for hospitals I talked to you about, the president of the National Congress told me that deputies wanted to have an appropriation of 1 billion lempiras to provide funds to the municipalities based on the population of each municipality. I told the deputies: Please, if you are going to create this appropriation of 1 billion lempiras, earmark 2 million lempiras for the Tocoa and Olanchito Hospitals. The appropriation which you [the deputies] put in the president's budget could have been included in the budget of Public Health and Social Aid Ministry. Today I signed the transfer of the appropriation of 2 million lempiras to the Ministry of Public Health and Social Aid. The money is for the Olanchito and Tocoa Hospitals and to remodel the La Ceiba Atlantic Hospital.

Regarding the so-called confidential appropriations again, the overall budget of the Presidency does not include a confidential appropriation. (?I told you), the president is going to use 2.5 million lempiras -- which you yourselves put in -- at his own discretion.

Institutions request money for any purpose. I order that money sent to that institution, and the check is made out to that institution. An individual or corporation to whom the check is made out, cashes the check through the General Treasury of the Republic or through a special account at the Central Bank. I have not received a single cent outside my monthly paycheck of 12,000 lempiras. Moreover, I have paid the national treasury over 20,000 lempiras in income tax.

The government is claiming we have no authority. I strongly believe that never in this country has there been a team of ministers more honest than now. We can clearly state that no one can accuse a minister of being corrupt while I have been in office. The executive branch has no authority over adminstrative honesty. I feel there is no reason for such a fuss. If we must investigate anyone, former President Suazo Cordova or any other person, it can be done. That is what state organizations are for. That is what the Adminstrative Integrity Office, the General Comptroller's Office of the Republic, and the Attorney General of the Republic are for. They are there to act on orders from the Adminstrative Integrity Office. I do not mean on orders from this office, but on a communication from the Adminstrative Integrity Office or the General Comptroller's Office.

It seems that some people are trying to make this government appear disorderly. I believe that never before has there been so much order or has a president had so much control over his ministers, budget, the monetary situation, and the fiscal situation as now. I can account for every cent that is spent. I will give you an example, Don Andres. There has been talks about contraband. Contraband is as old as mankind. Never before has there been a campaign against contraband as the one we have at present. There are indicators showing that this campaign is already bearing fruit. I will give you two figures. For instance, 6.1 million lempiras was collected in taxes from the sale and consumption of beer from January to February 1986. During the same period this year we ave collected more than 10 million lempiras. What does this show? It shows that the contraband of beer from Guatemala has been curbed by perhaps 90 or 95 percent. Here is another good indicator. There is talk about the coffee contraband to Guatemala. Last year, when the price of coffee was higher, we collected 8.8 million lempiras in taxes from coffee exports during February and March. However this year, with lower coffee prices, we collected 14.4 million lempiras during January and February.

What happens is that this government has no one to defend it. Nevertheless, the president of the Republic works 10 hours a day, and he is not sucking his thumb at his desk. He is analyzing all the problems related to the economic situation in Honduras, the monetary situation, the fiscal deficit, the measures that must be taken to increase fiscal revenues, and so forth. Regarding the falsification of official stamps. This was not done during this government. We do not know how many years ago it was done. We have changed the official stamp for passports and have gathered a good sum from that source in 4 or 5 days. This was not collected before. It is not true that...[changes thought] Jose Azcona is definitely the one who is least concerned -- from the standpoint of his personal interests -- about a possible coup d'etat in this country. No one will scare me with that threat. When I leave the presidency, I will only have savings from my salary and the small capital I have made as a result of my orderly life and work. So, I am not scared by that. I think that these are not times for coup d'etats, and the executive branch will not contribute to fomenting a negative situation that could lead to the breaking of the institutional order. No one should try to threaten me, because I am not worried at all. I would be sorry for Honduras and for democracy, however, Jose Azcona would lose nothing at all personally. I believe in this country we should try to be more just and more objective regarding these matters. There is talk about contraband, but there is less contraband than before; there is talk about corruption, but we are fighting corruption in this country like never before.

Never before has there been a cabinet where no one can doubt that the first to the last minister is acting with absolute honesty. I say this and I will uphold this in any arena I challenge anyone to show evidence that any senior official in this government is involved in an act of corruption. Only then I will accept that there is corruption. In order for corruption to prosper, it must permeate the entire system. If the president is an honest man, it is very unlikely that a minister will be a thief. By the same token, a president cannot be a thief, unless he has collaborators within the government.

I see we are being apocalyptical, too apocalyptical. Last year, for example, it was said that anyone who gets to the Presidency leaves with a bag full of money, because there are subsidies for this and that. Despite all those criticisms, we have reduced the fiscal deficit from more than 9 percent in 1985 to 7 percent, in relation to the GNP. This year we are struggling to at least maintain that rate. [passage omitted]

[Torres] Are you satisfied with your closest aides in the Presidency?

[Azcona] My closest aides are loyal to me.

[Torres] (?How about) your presidential designate?

[Azcona] Presidential Designate Jaime Rosenthal Oliva?

[Torres] Yes.

[Azcona] We have publicly disagreed on some matters. In matters of financial or economic advice, he has been a great help to the government. This does not mean I share his views. However, I cannot limit his right to express his views. I have been loyal to him and to the public when I stated -- through that same radio station -- that I did not agree with Jaime Rosenthal Oliva's views.

[Question indistinct]

[Azcona,] I do not have the right to, either. I am not a dictator. I have no right to keep him from speaking out. However, I do disavow him if he speaks on behalf of the government. The president of the Republic is Jose Azcona Hoyo and not Jaime Rosenthal Oliva. However, I do not limit his right to say whatever he wants as a citizen of this country. [passage omitted] [end recording]

NICARAGUA

ORTEGA CALLS REAGAN POSITION 'IRRATIONAL'

PA190130 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Report by correspondent Luis Cabrera from Managua]

[Text] Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega Saavedra analyzed the latest statements of U.S. President Ronald Reagan on Monday while welcoming Ethiopian Foreign Minister Berhanu Bayeh.

[Begin Ortega recording] In his message on Saturday, President Reagan again attacked Nicaragua. He said Nicaragua is a vital zone for the United States which, of course, is not new. Since the last century, when the United States tried to occupy Central America and Nicaragua, that country has viewed the area as a vital zone. The problem is President Reagan's criteria has not changed. To him this is a vital zone; a zone that should be dominated by the United States; a zone that should be occupied by the United States, with governments established by the United States. It should be a zone with the status of a U.S. neocolony. This is the position that President Reagan has adopted and it is a totally irrational position. The Tower Commission report should make President Reagan reconsider. There has been a vote in the U.S. Congress. The House of Representatives voted against the approval of the remaining $40 million for the mercenary forces. Despite the Tower Commission report, the vote in the House of Representatives, the Contadora and Support Group's position, and the Nonaligned Movement's position, President Reagan has again made the same speech. It is a more threatening speech now because he is telling Congress that even without its support he will continue with his policies; he will maintain his policies to the end. This means we are in danger of a direct invasion of Nicaragua by U.S. troops. [end recording]

ORTEGA COMMENTS ON NONALIGNED MEETING IN GUYANA

PA192122 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Report by Luis Cabrera from Managua]

[Text] On Monday when Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega Saavedra welcomed Ethiopian Foreign Affairs Minister Berhanu Bayeh, he spoke with national and international press. Speaking on behalf of this radio station, we asked him about the most recent meeting of the Nonaligned in Georgetown.

[Begin recording] [Cabrera] How does Nicaragua evaluate the most recent meeting of the Nonaligned?

[Ortega] We are very satisfied with the results, and you are already familiar with the documents ratifying the [words indistinct] stands. We feel under the present circumstances, these is great concern throughout the world over the issue of peace, especially at a time when very important proposals have been presented by the USSR for specific measures that will lead to the removal of medium-range missiles. The Nonaligned Movement ratified at the Guyana meeting that [words indistinct] is another element in favor of peace.

Naturally, the specific topic was Latin America, but we cannot separate Latin Amerian problems from other problems in various regions of the world. When we ratify Latin American issues, we are also ratifying our stands in favor of peace in the world, detente, and those very important subjects: economics, commercialism, and the foreign debt that is crushing the developing countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. These issues require us to form a common front. [end recording]

VICE PRESIDENT RAMIREZ VIEWS AREA SITUATION

PA192051 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez said that a change in attitude toward Nicaragua by the Central American presidents would favor a climate of understanding and would make it possible to reject foreign intervention in the area.

Ramirez expressed his hope that the Esquipulas presidential summit will be a decisive step in the quest for peace through dialogue.

Ramirez described as an important and unusual action the letter sent by Costa Rican President Oscar Arias to the United States Government, demanding an explanation for the use of the airport on Costa Rican soil to send supplies to the Somozist contras.

After stressing that the contras are being defeated in Nicaragua, Ramirez said the financing of those bands by Washington only serve to help those groups occupy part of the Honduran territory.

OBANDO Y BRAVO CRITICIZES 'PEOPLE'S CHURCH'

PY211256 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 13 Mar 87 pp 6-7

[Text] Asked about the significance of the People's Church in his country, Nicaraguan Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo yesterday said: "There are undoubtedly some priests who feel the only sound solution for the people is to join Marxism. I would say very few Nicaraguan priests are part of the so-called People's Church, but they receive a great deal of publicity through the media."

The Niaraguan cardinal, who is attending the Latin American Bishops Conference, said that "those priests who work for Marxism are well-treated in publications, magazines, and books, and have access to every media organization without difficulty."

In reply to another question, Obando said: "They have very few followers. The churches led by these priests are never full, or they are attended by many internationalists. Most people continue to follow the guidance of their pastors, the bishops."

Asked if the pope has prohibited these priests from exercising their functions in Nicaragua, the cardinal said: "The Holy See has addressed this problem directly and has suspended them 'ad divinis.' Thus, they cannot administer the sacraments. As far as I know, they have said masses only privately."

Asked if the church can offer an alternative to what is offered by the Sandinistas and the contras, or whether Nicaragua is once and for all moving toward its crucifixion, Cardinal Obando said: "The Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference issued a Pastoral Letter in 1979 announcing some conclusions. In this letter the Conference clearly stated its position, particularly regarding socialism. It was stated that if socialism is understood as a more humane, fraternal system aimed at narrowing the gap between the rich and the poor, the Conference would have no problems with it. However, it does not want either hatred among classes, or left-wing or right-wing totalitarianism. The Nicaraguan bishops are trying to preserve their own identity and would like to find a solution to the Nicaraguan problem through dialogue. To this end, the Conference issued a Pastoral Letter 3 years ago urging everyone to promote reconciliation in the country."

CONTRAS SABOTAGE POWERLINE NEAR HONDURAN BORDER

PA270045 Paris AFP in Spanish 0003 GMT 27 Mar 87

[By Ernesto Ramirez]

[Excerpt] Managua, 26 Mar (AFP) — A large and important sector of the northern region of Las Segovias, the population of which exceeds 200,000 people, as well as Honduran towns on the Nicaraguan border, were without electricity after anti-Sandinist rebels blew up a power line in Nicaragua, official reports indicate.

The action took place at approximately 1920 local time on Wednesday, approximately 13 km north of Esteli, the largest city in northern Nicaragua.

As a result of the sabotage, today the city of Ocotal, approximately 30 km from the Honduran border, was left without electricity. This was also the case in at least the communities of Condega, Jalapa, and El Jicaro, in the northern region of Las Segovias, the Nicaraguan Energy Institute (INE) reported. Also affected were the Honduran sectors of Las Manos and El Espino, to which Nicaragua supplies electricity through an interconnection system.

The blackout, according to David Valdivia, the regional director of the INE in Esteli, has affected at least 200,000 residents of that important area in northern Nicaragua.

Valdivia said that INE repair personnel are working to repair the damage so that as quickly as possible electrical power can be resumed to the Las Segovias communities affected by the blackout.

The sabotage coincides with increased anti-Sandinist actions against economic and civilian objectives in different parts of the country during the past few weeks, and comes at a time when the "contras" are announcing a strong military offensive in Nicaraguan territory. [passage omitted]

RODRIGUEZ, FOREIGN LEADERS ATTEND PLANT OPENING

FL260202 Havana Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] The Isle of Youth Tercer Congreso ceramic plant was officially inaugurated today in the presence of Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Politburo and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, and Gunther Kleiber, member of the GDR Socialist Unity Party Politiburo and vice president of the GDR Council of Ministers.

Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Algerian National Liberation Front [FLN] Politburo and leader of the FLN Central Committee Permanent Secretariat, who is visiting our country, also attended the opening ceremony of the plant, built in cooperation with the GDR.

[Begin Rodriguez recording] Today we remember the process that started ceramic production on this island. We cannot forget that it began in 1964 with the initiative, enthusiasm, and organizational capabilities of Ernesto Che Guevara when the Caolin plant was founded. This was the beginning of ceramic production on our island. [applause] [end recording]

The high-level leaders toured the plant with Armando Manresa, first secretary of the Isle of Youth PCC's Municipal Committee. The plant is the largest and most modern ceramic producer in the country. The recently-inaugurated plant will be able to produce at full capacity 3,000 tons of pieces a year. It joins the nine other Isle of Youth ceramic centers.

DELEGATION ATTENDS REGIONAL MEETING ON ENVIRONMENT

FL242202 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] The Cuban delegation to the first Latin American and Caribbean Interparliamentary Conference on the Environment has condemned the expanding arms race and called for using these resources for the good of the human race. Blanca Fong Lam, head of our delegation, said the arms race can only lead to a world holocaust and therefore any action to protect nature should be preceded by a struggle for peace. She added that the acute economic crisis Latin America is experiencing, aggravated by a foreign debt of more than $380 billion, is holding up the region's environmental practices and policies. Fong Lam reported that the infant mortality rate in Cuba is now 13.6 for each 1,000 live births and that life expectancy at birth is 74.2 years. As to environmental protection in our country, she said that 1,130 million trees are being planted and that we have 6 billion cubic meters of water in storage now, up from 40 million in 1959.

Argentina's (Luis Este Leon), president of the Latin American Parliament, proclaimed at the conference, taking place in Mexico City, that continental unity is indispensable to pull out of the economic backwardness Latin America is bogged down in. He said servicing Latin America's foreign debt, which brings in more than $6 billion to its creditors, is a very serious situation that will surely complicate the continent's future.

LATIN AMERICAN PLANNING CONFERENCE HELD IN HAVANA

FL241226 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, yesterday had a lively meeting with the heads of delegations attending the Sixth Conference of the Latin American and Caribbean Planning Ministers and Chiefs.

Among the topics discussed were economic problems and Cuba's economic and political development, on which Comrade Fidel answered several questions from his visitors.

The president of the Councils of State and Ministers also met with the outgoing president of the organization, Carlos Salinas de Gortari, Mexican secretary of programming and budget.

Uruguay To Host Mext Meeting

FL260117 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] It was announced today at the Palace of Conventions that the Seventh Conference of Latin American and Caribbean Planning Ministers and Chiefs will be held in Montevideo, Uruguay, in 1989. Agustin Canessa, Uruguayan deputy chief of planning and budget, made the proposal, which was accepted during the last session of the sixth conference, which ended today after meeting for 3 days.

Although the Sixth Conference of Latin American and Caribbean Planning Ministers and Chiefs focused on basic aspects of regional cooperation, the main report, and almost all the remarks made by delegates and guests, backed the concept that the foreign debt is unpayable. Analysts here interpret this as one more expression of the sub-continent's support of the Brazilian Government's decision to suspend its foreign debt [interest] payments. Regarding the debt and integration, Delegate Franco Montoro, former governor of the Brazilian state of Sao Paolo and director of the Latin American Institute, Ilan, gave us his views:

[Begin Montoro recording] The foreign debt is not an isolated problem. It is a critical situation. The entire international economic and political system will have to be reviewed. The debt is linked to problems such as foreign trade, prices of goods, protectionism, and financing. Above all, one has to be aware that ultimately we have to take into account our resources. Our problems will not be solved by international-level decisions. We have to understand each other so we can solve our problems here with mutual cooperation. [end recording]

RADIO COMMENTS ON SELA MEETING, FOREIGN DEBT

PA192332 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Mar 87

["Note" feature read by Maruja Garcia]

[Text] It is essential for Latin America to recover the autonomy and freedom of action necessary to adopt an independent strategy that will allow it to confront the challenges of constantly changing world trade. This is taken from a SELA report being analyzed in San Jose, Costa Rica, by delegates from 26 countries of the area. The economic vulnerability of Latin America has increased, the report adds, and one of the challenges the region has to face is strengthening the international trade system so it can at least satisfy the needs of its peoples.

Latin America should achieve a continuous process of liberalization that will benefit traditional exports and eliminate protectionism in sectors of potential growth, thus preventing access to these markets from being used to obtain concessions in noncommercial areas, the SELA report points out. Another challenge is that of countering the Latin American trade dependency on the United States and confronting the growing protectionism of the industrialized capitalist countries, the document concludes.

While the Latin American stand is analyzed in San Jose, with views to be presented at the 7th UN Meeting on Commerce and Development in July in Geneva, the region's labor movement has begun to discuss the worsening of the Latin American social and economic crisis and its political repercussions. Labor leaders from over a dozen countries have met in Mexico City to analyze the consequences the hefty foreign debt -- which cannot be paid -- has on the people. The meeting is held at a time when there is uncertainty over the repercussions that might result from the recent decisions by Brazil to indefinitely postpone [interest] payments on its foreign debt. Several Latin American and Caribbean nations have supported this measure.

HAVANA VIEWS 'CORRUPTION' IN HONDURAN ARMY

PA182245 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Mar 87

["Our America" commentary read by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] A little over a year ago, in the midst of accusations and denials, General Walter Lopez, former chief of the Honduran Armed Forces, was forced to leave his post when it was discovered he had received $450,000 out of the aid the United States granted the groups of former Somozists in 1985. The issue came to light when the U.S. House of Representatives was investigating the fate of more than $14 million of the $27 million Congress had granted that year to the counterrevolutionaries.

At the beginning of 1986, the U.S. Office of the Comptroller General disclosed that in addition to the check sent to Walter Lopez, another for a larger amount had been issued in the name of the Honduran Armed Forces.

Perhaps, someone may ask, why are we again discussing an issue that was broadly discussed at that time. The fact is that on 24 February Gen Walter Lopez accused the counterrevolutionaries of corruption. He later added that when he was commander in chief of the Armed Forces he had received a check that he directly deposited in the Honduran Central Bank. Although Lopez did not say if the deposit was made in the name of the Armed Forces, he hinted that it was for the mercenary groups.

The issue has not been brought up again just for the sake of doing so. The fact is that U.S. General John Singlaub, a retired soldier involved in the Irangate scandal, recently said that ranking officers in the Honduran Army always charged a percentage of everything the United States sent to the mercenary groups. Singlaub added that when he expressed surprise over this strange action, merecenary leader Adolfo Calero told him: This happens all the time. It is the unpleasant part of the job. There are two alternatives: either the payments continue or the supplies will not reach their destination.

It seems it is clearer now where more than half of the $27 million the U.S. Congress authorized for the mercenary groups went. At first the money just disappeared without any trace. Putting the dollars aside, the fact is that in regard to corruption the Honduran Army has not demonstrated notable differences from the anti-Nicaraguan mercenaries.

Meanwhile, Gen Walter Lopez should clarify, once and for all, the fate of so many hundreds of thousands of dollars, instead of pretending to be offended and criticizing the United States and the mercenaries when they are all birds of the same feather.

All of Honduras knows that its military men are immersed in corruption and bribery in the form of the hundreds of millions of dollars that the United States has spilled on the country ever since President Reagan decided that the Managua government must be toppled. President Jose Azcona named a commission that -- according to what he said -- will investigate corruption within the Armed Forces. However, this appears to be just another effort to deceive the people.

NONALIGNED SUPPORT PANAMA'S RIGHTS OVER CANAL

PA252020 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Mar 87

["Our America" commentary read by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] At the ministerial meeting of the Nonaligned Movement recently held in Guyana, the Movement reconfirmed its unconditional support for Panama's right to assume full sovereignty of the Panama Canal.

The fact that the topic has already been discussed does not mean it lacks importance. On the contrary, the battle of the Panamanian people to control its main economic resource is particularly important in the context of our continent's struggle against imerialist domination.

General Omar Torrijos, who died in a plane crash under unclear circumstances, was the promoter of the treaties signed with U.S. President Carter. These treaties established that the canal would be returned to Panama on 31 December 1999. Those agreements were never welcomed by the U.S. ultrarightist sectors, however, and the arrival to the Presidency of Ronald Reagan, a stubborn reactionary, proved it.

Under that fascist current, Washington approved the so-called U.S. Law No 96-70 which, by overriding the Torrijos-Carter treaties, confers upon the U.S. President and the U.S. defense secretary the power to fulfill or to not fulfill the commitment for the year 2000 regarding Panama's right to recover the canal. Under the protection of that law, the current government encourages discriminatory practices against the Panamanian personnel who are learning about the canal administration and prevents the development of constructive and technical improvements to the canal.

The United States is failing to fulfill the agreement to give Panama part of the surplus produced by canal operations. It is estimated that U.S. authorities have failed to give Panama $70 million.

Of course, the U.S. attitude creates disagreements with the Panamanian Government. Early this month, President Eric Delvalle said his country will not give Washington a truce as long as it insists on violating the canal agreements that entered into effect on 1 October 1979.

At the United Nations in October 1986, the Panamanian president denounced the dilatory nature of U.S. Law No 96-70. At that time, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz publicly promised to analyze the Panamanian claims and adopt the necessary corrective measures. Five months later, the White House has still not taken any action, and the policy of discrimination and creation of obstacles continues as an established practice.

The truth is that although the 1979 treaties and their fulfillment are a battle for Panama, the fulfillment of such an arbitrary law as U.S. Law No 96-70 entails a new war front for Panama and for those who support its just demand.

CASTRO RECEIVES HONORARY DEGREE FROM BOLIVIA

FL210351 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 21 Mar 87

[Text] Bolivia's San Simon Higher University has awarded Cuban President Fidel Castro an honorary degree. Among the merits recognized by the Bolivian university in Cochabamba is the drafting of the new constitution, which institutionalizes revolutionary victories and guarantees the effective exercise of the peoples will and sovereignty through the peoples' government. Castro is also recognized for his brilliant analysis of the foreign debt and the moral, legal, political, and economic reasons to suspend payments.

The university also notes the consequent implementation of an international policy stressing permanent solidarity with Bolivia's maritime claims.

PERU TO SIGN TECHNOLOGY EXCHANGE AGREEMENT

PA192058 Havana International Service in Quechua 0000 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] Guillermo Flores, president of the Peruvian Nuclear Energy Institute, told Havana Radio that Peru and Cuba will sign in the near future an agreement on technology exchange concerning food irradiation and nuclear medicine.

Flores had visited the Cuban food irradiation plant. The director said Cuba is in the forefront of technology for preserving agricultural and dairy products. He later stated that a similar plant will be inaugurated in Peru. The Cuban plant received technology and advice from the USSR.

The purpose of this plant is to preserve agricultural and dairy products, including the protection of food from possible disease.

GRENADIAN OPPOSITIONIST DEPLORES CURRENT SITUATION

PA151937 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Statement by George Louison, leader of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement of Grenada; date not given; live or recorded -- in English with superimposed Spanish translation]

[Text] People's power no longer exists in Grenada. Human rights are not respected. Many times we have witnessed police brutality. There has been an increase in state terrorism, as well as an attempt to create and develop large army and police organizations in Grenada. In fact, the government has spent $9.5 million out of this year's budget on the police, an increase of 50 percent from last year.

During Maurice Bishop's government, the annual budget for both the police and the army was $4.5 million. This year a little more than twice as much has been allotted. This is a clear indication that the government has become a repressive regime.

From the viewpoint of society in general, one can detect a total lack of freedom and of rights that the people enjoyed fully under the revolutionary popular government. Today the people of Grenada no longer have popular councils. The workers have lost the possibility of getting a share of the profits; there are no longer training programs for them; and they no loner participate in the direction of factories and agricultural enterprises.

Grenadian women have gone back to the days when they were treated like second-class citizens. Many young people die or are beaten while in police custody. Last year on March 13 the regime approved one of the most severe laws the country has ever had: the law on restriction of movement. This law authorizes a minister to prohibit anyone he feels is harmful to the government from leaving Grenada.

I believe we do not have, in fact, the reestablishment of democracy, but, rather, all the rights and freedoms the people formerly enjoyed have been taken away.

ESPIN ARRIVES IN GDR FOR WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

For reportage on the visit by Vilma Espin, president of the Federation of Cuban Women, to the GDR, see the German Democratic Republic section of the 27 March Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

ECONOMIC, INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION WITH SPAIN MEETS

FL182125 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] The third round of talks of the first meeting of the Joint Spanish-Cuban Economic and Industrial Commission just began at the Protocol Room of Havana's Sierra Maestra Hotel.

Miguel Angel Fernandez Ordonez, secretary of state for commerce at the Spanish Ministry of Economy, Finance, and Commerce, and Ernesto Melendez, minister president of the Cuban State Committee for Economic Cooperation, are presiding over their respective government delegations. Igacio Fuego, under secretary of state for tourism [title as heard], is also part of the Spanish delegation.

The fundamental purpose of this meeting is to define the terms for using the credit charged to the Spanish Fund for Development Assistance. Procedures to make Cuban-Spanish trade and financial relations easier, and the possibility of tourism cooperation will also be discussed.

During their stay in Cuba, the Spanish secretaries of state will meet with several Cuban ministers of state and visit sites of social and economic interest.

The signing of the final document of this meeting is expected to take place on Friday, 20 March.

Delegation Visits Ministries

FL210104 Havana Radio Periodico del Aire in Spanish 2230 GMT 20 Mar 87

[Text] The Spanish delegation visiting Havana, headed by Miguel Angel Fernandez Ordonez, secretary of state for commerce at the Spanish Ministry of Economy, Finance, and Commerce, today had meetings at the Foreign Ministry, the Foreign Trade Ministry, and the National Bank of Cuba.

The third round of negotiations of the first meeting of the Joint Spanish-Cuban Economic and Industrial Commission began last Wednesday [18 March] and will conclude this afternoon with the signing of the final act on the agreements reached at this meeting.

VEIGA VISITS MATANZAS AGROINDUSTRIAL COMPLEX

FL130145 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Mar 87

[By Eduardo Pedrasa]

[Text] Roberto Veiga, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo, visited this afternoon the Australia agroindustrial complex in Jaguey Grande, Matanzas, and learned about the efforts the workers are making to make up for the delays caused by heavy rains during the last few days. Veiga was accompanied by Luis A. Canay, secretary general of Argentina's Union Groups Coordination Board, and Juan Aguero, chief of the CTC's [Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions] International Relations Department.

ANPP PRESIDENT STATES PURPOSE OF INSPECTIONS

FL121847 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Text] While conducting an inspection of Granma Province in Vayamo, Flavio Bravo Pardo, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and president of the National Assembly of the Peoples Government [ANPP], called for more and better quality work each day.

Bravo Pardo said the purpose of these visits is to detect deficiencies, improve work, and become aware of the country's current situation.

ANAP FAILS TO MEET SUGARCANE DELIVERY GOALS

FL202225 Havana Radio Periodico del Aire in Spanish 1700 GMT 20 Mar 87

[Text] The members of the National Association of Small Farmers [ANAP] have incurred a deficit of 76.4 million arrobas in the delivery of sugarcane to the country's sugar industry during the present harvest. Moreover, no province is fulfilling its commitments in supplying the cane. The excessive rain from 1 to 10 March significantly affected the results of the harvest during that period and to a large extent caused raw material supplies to decrease by 26.6 million arrobas.

CUTTERS BRIGADE RECEIVES 2 MILLION-ARROBA BANNER

FL202034 Havana Radio Periodico del Aire in Spanish 1700 GMT 20 Mar 87

[Text] The 70th Anniversary of the October Revolution Brigade of the Havana Transportation Union reached the 2 million-arroba mark of cut sugarcane 57 days ahead of schedule.

The group obtained the Victoria de Giron Banner in only 100 days of work by supplying raw material to the Camilo Cienfuegos refinery in the Havana municipality of Santa Cruz del Norte. The brigade averaged 20,060 arrobas of sugarcane per day, at a rate of 498 arrobas per man, using the method of green and burned sugarcane collection.

The 41 cutters dedicated their victory to May Day, the international workers day.

WORKERS GIVEN 'PRIORITY' CARE IN GRANMA

FL122115 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1915 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Text] Serious work is being done in Granma Province with regard to attending to men participating in the harvest, Rene Diaz Olivera, vice minister of domestic trade and president of the national commission to oversee that goal, has said.

Diaz Olivera stressed that the commission attending to men working on the Granma harvest works at the basic level, supervises, controls, and provides guidance on the importance of offering the best possible living conditions to those making efforts to benefit the country's major industry.

Granma Province works systematically to guarantee clothing, food, work means, and compliance with health tasks. Granma's accomplishments in attending to men participating in the harvest is mostly a result of the constant supervision of activities that the party and the people's government maintain in the province.

POLITBURO MEMBER CALLS FOR GREATER HARVEST EFFORTS

FL121801 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Text] Julian Rizo, alternate member of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Politburo and member of the PCC Secretariat, called for economic awareness in the agricultural-livestock and sugar sectors when he spoke at the seminar for Secretaries General of Municipal Committees of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions [CTC] at the Lazaro Pena National Trade Union cadre school. Rizo stressed the need to reduce costs and produce greater yields per caballeria during the present harvest:

[Begin Rizo recording] We want all the comrades in the next few hours or days to go to each of their municipalities and tell the workers that, because of the weather and harvest conditions we are all required to do our part. In some territories there are more difficulties than in others, but at this moment the harvest requires additional efforts. This is precisely what we want you to convey to the sugar workers in the municipalities to increase our milling and efficiency to a superior level. [applause] [end recording]

ESPIN ATTENDS FOOD RADIATION PLANT OPENING

FL130322 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] With the opening today of a food radiation plant, Cuba is the 10th country in the world capable of radiating goods at a commercial level. The only one of its kind in the country and in the Caribbean, this first radiation facility for production purposes was donated to Cuba as a UN project through the International Organization of Nuclear Energy. After a decade of studies and research projects, our country will begin radiating on a large scale first potatoes, later onions, and eventually cereals and vegetables. With this method, which is beneficial for health, specific problems regarding food spoilage can be avoided, inasmuch as it destroys certain harmful elements of the produce while keeping it raw.

In its first phase, five tons of goods per hour will be radiated every day. With this modern preservation technique, spoilage will decrease between 20 and 30 percent compared to nonradiated food.

Vilma Espin, member of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Politburo; Jaime Crombet, member of the PCC Secretariat; and Fidel Castro Diaz-Balart, executive secretary of the Commission of Nuclear Energy, as well as guests from several countries and the International Organization of Nuclear Energy, attended the opening ceremony at the [words indistinct] foodstuffs industry research center. The completion and operation of this project shows that nuclear energy can be used for peaceful purposes.

[Begin recording of Food Industry Minister Alejandro Roca] identified by caption] For Cuba, a developing country with a climate of high temperatures and relative humidity during most of the year, and at the same time with a mostly agricultural economy, it is extremely important to find solutions to the losses of goods after harvest. Efforts come to a climax today in this important stage of the work, with the beginning of operation of this food radiation plant after 3 years of intense work in its planning, construction, and installation. [applause] [end recording]

HAVANA ANTI-MALARIA CONTINGENT GETS BANNER

FL131831 Havana Radio Periodico del Aire in Spanish 1700 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] The Carlos J. Finlay Contingent, made up of 300 workers of various Havana workplaces and municipalities, charged with carrying out the drive to bring under control the aedes egyptis mosquito, has received a banner from Pedro Chavez, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and president of the National Assembly of the People's Government.

Chavez said that the contingent was created in response to the need to eradicate this mosquito from the province. A total of 191 breeding spots was detected in 11 municipalities during the first 8 weeks of this phase of the campaign. During the event, it was reported that the Cerro, San Miguel de Padron, and Bolleros Municipalities presented the most problems.

ALDANA SPEAKS AT SOCIAL WELFARE SEMINAR

FL182105 Havana Radio Rebel de Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Carlos Aldana, member of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee Secretariat, today addressed the first seminar on social welfare and assistance, which began yesterday at the PCC's Nico Lopez National School. Aldana focused on the topic of youth, whose education must be a joint responsibility of organizations and mass organizations [sentence as heard]. He stressed that ideological work must be patterned not only on the basis of our desires, but on the basis of realities.

Aldana discussed youths' technical training, the education of those who have studied abroad, the mass that is not involved in studies or work, and early pregnancy. He said that the concept of setting examples must encompass family responsibility and the raising of children.

Regarding free time, the party leader said that it is the state's responsibility because the state possesses the resources. He said that this problem will be resolved at the provincial level, and he mentioned Camaguey's experiences in this field.

PUBLIC HEALTH MINISTRY REPORTS ON MORTALITY RATE

FL211327 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Mar 87

[Text] The 1986 mortality rate caused by infectious and parasitic diseases has dropped to 1.5 percent. This is the best rate ever registered, according to the report released during the Public Health Ministry's assessment meeting, which began yesterday in Havana. The document also indicated that the infant mortality rate was 13.6 percent per every 1,000 live births. This reflects a 50 percent drop in last 11 years.

HAVANA DELEGATION TO UJC CONGRESS ELECTED

FL200345 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0302 GMT 20 Mar 87

[Text] The Havana delegation to the Fifth Congress of the UJC [Union of Young Communists], which will be held from 1 to 4 April, was elected tonight and includes 372 comrades.

At the meeting to elect the delegation, Jorge Lezcano, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba in Havana, said serious steps have been taken in the province to provide conditions for youth recreation. He also told the delegates that in honor of the fifth UJC congress, another six video halls will be opened in Havana. There are now 16 video halls, and he said Havana expects to have a total of 30 in the near future.

At the meeting, 20 comrades were elected to participate in the Council of Representatives at that important event for young Cuban communists.

CORRECTION TO RODRIGUEZ REMARKS ON FOREIGN DEBT

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Carlos Rafael Rodriguez on Foreign Debt," published in the 25 March Latin America DAILY REPORT, page Q 1:

Paragraph 19, line two: debt this year. [new graf]

[Rodriguez] There are some things that did not happen this year; however, they did not become evident this year. I am not speaking . . . (supplying dropped lines).

BRIEFS

FORESTRY AGREEMENT WITH USSR — Cuba and the Soviet Union have signed a 10-year intergovernmental agreement for the exploitation of the Yavorov forests in the Soviet Union. A global forest complex, which will occupy some 20,000 square km and have a wood volume of 170 million cubic meters, will be created. Cuban construction and forest workers are already living in the Yavorov area. [Summary] [Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 Mar 87 PA]

DOMINICA

THREATS FORCE CARIB TO RESIGN FROM COUNCIL

FL211436 Bridgetown CANA in English 1950 GMT 21 Mar 87

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, March 20, CANA -- A member of the Carib Council has resigned because of alleged threats by colleagues against his non-Carib wife.

Councillor Norwills Elick said in a letter of resignation that some residents of the reserve had threatened to beat his wife, while others wanted to burn his house because she was not a Carib.

According to Elick, he enjoys working with the council for the development of his people, but he fears for his safety and that of his family.

The resignation comes admidst controversy surrounding a proposed move by the Carib Council, which is responsible for local government in the 3,700 acre reserve, to expel non-Caribs from the reserve.

The Council is locked in a battle of words with central government, with the Carib's claiming to be concerned about protecting their culture, while the government is opposed to what it sees as a move to segregate the Carib people from the rest of the country.

A government spokesman said today the government had abandoned a series of consultative meetings in the reserve after it was accused earlier this week at one such meeting of being responsible for the current problems.

The spokesman said the government was in fact trying to find an amicable solution to the problem and would now await promised initiatives from the Carib Council, including proposed amendments which the Caribs want made to the Carib Reserve Act.

ST LUCIA

COMPTON TO PAY 'PRIORITY ATTENTION' TO OECS

FL211430 Bridgetown CANA in English 1311 GMT 21 Mar 87

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, March 21, CANA -- Prime Minister John Compton has promised priority attention to a political federation of the seven-island Organisation of East Caribbean States (OECS), if his conservative United Workers Party (UWP) is re-elected in general elections here April 6.

Compton was quoted by the Barbados-based Eastern Caribbean News Weekly, as saying that OECS leaders were planning an eastern Caribbean federation in less than five years, and would welcome Barbados membership in the union.

All of the leaders are committed to political unity in one form or another, and it is important that immediately after the St. Lucia elections they start talking about it, before other countries start preparing for their elections, the newspaper, which is circulated in the OECS countries, quoted him as saying.

The OECS is an economic sub-grouping of the Caribbean Community (Caricom), made up of Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, and St Vincent, with Anguilla an associate member.

The OECS administrative headquarters is located here, while its economic secretariat is based in Antigua and Barbuda.

The OECS leaders are looking to one form of citizenship, freedom of movement of persons, freedom of movement of goods, and one central government, Compton is quoted as saying.

Compton, predicting victory for his party in the forthcoming poll, said he is hoping to retain a two-thirds majority in parliament, in order to make constitutional amendments necessary to facilitate St Lucia's participation in the proposed political union.

Given the limitations of individual member states and the high expectations of citizens, a political union was the most viable solution to strengthening the economic base of the OECS sub-region, to raise living standards, he added.

The next general election after the St Lucia poll are constitutionally due in Montserrat sometime next year, and in St Kitts and Nevis and St Vincent and the Grenadines in 1989, although under the constitutions of these English Caribbean territories, elections can be held prior to the constitutionally due date.

TURKS AND CAICOS

LEGISLATURE CRITICIZES ADVISORY COUNCIL

FL241525 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] In the Turks and Caicos Islands, the legislature met yesterday to discuss budget matters but broke up in a dispute.

Following the meeting, two parties issued a statement criticizing the governor's interim advisory council for trying to name former Chief Minister Nathaniel Francis as speaker.

In the statement one party had, Oswald Skippings called on the British governor to name a new speaker and to hold elections.

The power now lies with the governor, who has power under the interim constitution to appoint the speaker or to preside in person.